# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-126
Thursday
30 June 1988

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*FBIS-LAT-88-126* *30 June 1988*

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## Cuba

### FAR Ministry Refutes RSA Version of Attack

*FL3006124088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Text] Today GRANMA newspaper publishes a front-page report from the FAR Ministry which says:

South Africa is attempting to raise an international uproar due to the air strike against its camps and military installations in Calueque, south of Angola, made by the Cuban-Angolan Air Force last 27 June.

The strike was in response to the South African attack with long-range artillery against Cuban-Angolan positions in (Chipa), south of Cahama, Cunene Province.

This hostile action, with the use of almost 200 missiles [as heard], occurred on Sunday, 26 June, between 1715 and 1822 hours, 24 hours after the Cairo meeting where delegations were working hard for a political, negotiated solution to the conflict. This type of artillery attack directly against our troops in the southwestern front in Angola never occurred before.

On that same Sunday, the Cuban Government reported these incidents to the Governments of the USSR and the United States. This last country is acting as mediator in the negotiations.

As an appropriate response from our troops, the heavy air strike was carried out against South African forces located in Calueque on 27 June at 1300. On that same morning, a strong South Africa patrol of the 61st Regular Mechanized Battalion advancing toward (Chipa) on an exploratory mission was intercepted and almost annihilated 16 km southwest of that point. Of the six Ratel vehicles used by that patrol, four were destroyed and one was taken intact by our air [as heard] forces after its South African personnel fled. Many maps, documents, and different types of weapons were found in the vehicle.

A South African support column advancing as reinforcement was intercepted, held back, and struck by our aviation at 1000 on the same day.

South Africa has offered the horrifying and fantastic version that Cuban-Angolan forces had 10 vehicles destroyed and that they lost 200 lives. Wars are not won with lies. No Cuban-Angolan vehicle was destroyed during this encounter. A Cuban T-55 tank that was damaged by an enemy attack remained in our possession and has now been repaired and is combat-ready.

The territory where the ground actions occurred southwest of (Chipa) remained in our possession, as well as the four Ratel armored vehicles that were destroyed and the one that was captured in good condition.

During all the actions that occurred on 26 and 27 June, Cuban-Angolan and SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] troops suffered 10 deaths.

All air and ground actions occurred in the interior of Angola. The South African troops received a good lesson.

We are not able to estimate their exact losses. They acknowledge that they have 12 dead. Based on the casualties observed during ground combat, we estimate that they suffered several dozen deaths.

As is customary since the times of the rebel army, our Armed Forces strictly adhere to the truth. Any South African attack against Cuban-Angolan forces on the southern front in Angola will receive the same immediate and firm response. Nevertheless, the Government of Cuba and that of Angola continue their disposition to work seriously toward a negotiated solution to the conflict.

[Signed] FAR Ministry

### Nicaragua's President Ortega Continues Visit

#### Tours Havana With Castro

FL2906174988 [Editorial Report] Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 29 June carries an approximately 1-and-½-minute report on the tour of Havana made by President Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Last night Castro and Ortega toured the construction site of the Miguel Henriquez Training Hospital expansion in the Diez de Octubre municipality, says the announcer, where they received a detailed explanation on the services the expansion will provide. In addition to visiting the Los Compas child care center and a family doctor house, the announcer says Castro and Ortega yesterday visited the Blas Roca Calderia Contingent in Havana, where Castro spoke with the workers staying in "a modern camp."

Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 29 June in a-2-and-½-minute report adds that the "Nicaraguan delegation received an extensive explanation on the nature of the collective of workers at the Blas Roca contingent camp." The camera shows Ortega and Castro speaking to the workers. Ortega asks a worker, "Where did the contingent work before?" The worker explains that the contingent "is composed of workers from all the work centers in the capital." "It is based on the same principles as the minibrigades," says the worker.

When Ortega asks about their salaries, the worker replies, "The wage responds to the need of the people." Castro adds that they are paid "the wage they previously received." The workers are not allowed to donate volunteer hours during the week, adds Castro. "They can only do volunteer work on Sundays," he says. "These workers were selected," continues Castro. "The example they

have made has been transferred to the entire nation," he adds. From here, Castro and Ortega toured the Expo-Cuba construction site on the outskirts of Havana, reports the announcer.

Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1150 GMT on 29 June carries a 7-minute report on their tour of the ExpoCuba and Miguel Henriquez sites.

When Castro asks the workers at the ExpoCuba site how many people are working on the project, a worker responds that there are 1,800 people there. The worker explains that they are working 24 hours a day in two 12-hour shifts.

"How are things in the dining room?" asks Castro. "Have they made more dining areas?" The worker answers that things are better now that they have more kitchens.

Castro asks the worker how many contingents are working on ExpoCuba and Ortega asks how many people are in a contingent. The worker responds that they have 16 contingents. A small contingent can have about 16 workers and the larger ones can have from 50 to 200 workers, he adds.

"How many women work here?" asks Ortega. The worker reports that women comprise 18 percent of the work force.

Castro then turns to other workers and asks: "What do you think will happen here? Will we finish or not?" The crowd responds: "Of course we'll finish!"

"If 1,800 men cannot finish this, then nothing can be finished anywhere," adds Castro.

Castro notes that the ExpoCuba construction site is the ninth place that he and Ortega visited on 28 June.

## Briefs Nicaraguan Students

*PA3006010788 Havana International Service in Spanish 2346 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Report by Isidro Fardales—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] As part of his official friendly visit to Cuba, today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega toured the Carlos Fonseca Amador School in the special municipality of the Isle of Youth, where several hundred Nicaraguan youths study. The meeting between the students and their president was an unusual "Face the People" meeting in which Daniel Ortega learned firsthand of the students' work and of their desire to join the revolutionary process in Nicaragua with the knowledge they have acquired here in Cuba. The Nicaraguan president briefed the students on the latest events in the Central American country and addressed each of the students' concerns.

[Ortega] "The economic measures we adopted recently are aimed at guaranteeing that the Nicaraguan economy will continue to function. The workers of the urban and rural areas have to be protected by these measures. If we want to strengthen production in difficult times like these, we not only have to increase the Nicaraguan workers' great awareness and willingness to produce, but we have to protect their jobs and the minimum working conditions so that these workers can continue to produce. These are economic measures adopted within a socialistically oriented revolutionary process. We all know that the Sandinist people's revolution is a socialistically oriented revolution."

Regarding the Central American peace talks, Daniel Ortega said that the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups and of Latin America in favor of peace have not died, even though the U.S. Government has wanted to kill them by maintaining its position of not accepting political solutions and seeking the destruction of the Sandinist people's revolution. As a result, he insisted, Nicaraguans have to continue to be combat-ready, because one cannot rule out a direct intervention by U.S. troops.

[Ortega] "We have spoken about a suspension of offensive operations, but the contras in practice have been breaking that truce. There have been clashes in Nicaragua during the months when the suspension of offensive operations was supposed to be in effect. We have said and continue to maintain that if the contras decide again to launch a military offensive against Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan people, then we will be ready and willing to mobilize all the nation's forces to fight, defeat, and crush the mercenary forces."

In conclusion, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega issued an appeal to the Nicaraguan youths studying at the Carlos Fonseca Amador School:

[Ortega] "You are part of the Nicaraguan people. The Nicaraguan people are carrying out their duties in different areas. You must understand that to be here studying on the Isle of Youth is to be carrying out a task in defense of the Sandinist people's revolution, a task [10-second break in reception]."

## Further on Briefing

*FL3006040088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Text] As part of the visit that Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega is currently making to our country, this morning he held a meeting with Nicaraguan youths who are presently studying on the Isle of Youth.

[Begin speaker recording] Well, our question is that we would like to know how the political, economic, social, and military situation is in our country. [end recording]

The dialogue was held at the Carlos Fonseca Amador School and it covered various aspects of the Nicaraguan reality, to which the coordinator of the Executive Commission of the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front answered in detail.

[Begin Ortega recording] The Nicaraguan people are carrying out tasks in different areas. You must understand that to be here on the Isle of Youth studying is in fact to be complying with a task in the defense of the Sandinist people's revolution. This is a task which you must carry out with our slogan: Free fatherland [crowd replies: "Or (?death)"]. [end recording]

A few moments earlier, accompanied by Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, Ortega was welcomed by the Isle of Youth people. He was also welcomed by Armando Maresa Gonzales, first party secretary for the Isle of Youth municipality.

## Attends Minibrigade Meeting

*FL3006033188 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is presiding over the meeting of Havana City's minibrigades which is being held at the Karl Marx Theatre. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and other members of his delegation were also present.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Our purpose is especially to analyze the situation with the materials, what our problems with the materials are and what are we doing about them. With the participation of the various comrades and members of the Presidency who are present here, I think we should make an objective analysis. What are the difficulties, the things that concern us, what are we doing to resolve them, whether or not these difficulties can or cannot be solved, whether we are progressing or regressing, and how are things going—this is what we want to know. We want you to consider the Nicaraguan comrades present here as part of the same family.

[Minibrigade director Alberto Ortega] Although we know about the great effort that is being made in the capital by the comrades of the prefabrication industry, special attention must be given to something which has affected us. We had had great problems with [words indistinct] and the prefabricated elements.

[Castro] Let's see if someone can tell us here about what happened, why the delays, what problems we have had with the [words indistict] of [words indistinct], and what are we doing to resolve this problem.

[Roberto Gleradas, director of prefabrication (?enterprise)] Along with the preparation and planning of the program, we had expected to guarantee the development of this [words indistinct] for the Boyeros plant. For that we had to have ready seven (?transportation) cranes by December and four by January. Because of the situation ...

[Castro, interrupting] Who had to have the seven cranes ready for you, because I have heard about those cranes.

[Gleradas] SIME [Ministry of the Steelworking Industry] had to have them ready.

[Castro] SIME had to give you seven cranes?

[Gleradas] Yes.

[Castro] When were they supposed to give them to you?

[Gleradas] Between December and January, seven in December and four in January. There were finally given to us in May. Practically...

[Castro, interrupting] We are going to query SIME to find out what happened with those cranes.

[Speaker] We promised to make the cranes. But the cranes were initially conceived with some (?solutions) which in practice, during their execution and as time went by, they did not come about as foreseen. For example, these cranes were conceived using some nonstandard wheels which are not the wheels which we normally use on our crane. These were some wheels which had to be developed and which Micons [Ministry of Construction] initially thought they would be able to supply.

[Castro] But there you were resting on your laurels, blaming everyone else. There is no financing, there is none of this, none of that. You know we needed [words indistinct]. The ministry had to know it, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry also had to know it because it is in charge of seeing where there are problems. We have already prioritized these things. I say this because there is something very wrong with 6 November coming around with a crane project for a production plan in January, in the first half of the year. For certain there was a delay in that. I have no intention of hurting you or anything else. Our intention is to be alert, because if you just sit around, you'll be taken in by the flow of events. The bad thing is that it is us who will be taken in by the flow of events. You just remain sitting there calmly, maybe even thinking that you have complied with your duty. But the duty has been not complied with.

[Speaker] Will you allow me, Commander?

[Castro] Yes.

[Speaker] I think that what you have told us is right. However, I must say that I think the effort that we are making to maintain the production of [words indistinct] is really extraordinary, according to us.

[Castro] Sure, it can be heroic. But what we want to know is if you can make those [words indistinct] work without heroism, just like other things are produced. [end recording]

## Nicaragua's D'Escoto on Shultz C. American Tour

*PA3006010388 Havana International Service in Spanish 2355 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Report by Isidro Fardales—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega visited the special Cuban municipality of the Isle of Youth, where he met with Nicaraguan students who are studying at the Carlos Fonseca Amador School.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto was a member of President Ortega's delegation during that visit. Before his return to Havana from the Isle of Youth, newsmen approached D'Escoto and asked him to make statements about the Central American tour U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz began today. Shultz will not visit Nicaragua, however.

[D'Escoto] "This proves the United States is not interested in the continuation of the negotiations to achieve peace in Nicaragua.

"However, we must take into account that certain elements of the U.S. Republican Party that believe the U.S. Administration is forgetting about Central America forced Shultz to make this visit to Central America. I believe one of the reasons for this tour is to prevent those groups from thinking this. However, we cannot forget that Shultz' undisputable intention is to get support from the four Central American democracies—as the U.S. Administration describes them—to continue financing the contra movement."

In addition, Foreign Minister D'Escoto also made statements about the new request made by the mercenary bands. They want President Daniel Ortega and the other Central American presidents to participate in the dialogue for a negotiated political solution to the Nicaraguan problem.

[D'Escoto] "I suppose that means they are making everything contingent on the next Central American summit scheduled for 6-7 August. In principle, the meeting was scheduled to be held in El Salvador, but it cannot take place there, so I suppose it will be held in Guatemala.

"I believe they want to destroy the Sapoa agreement, but they do not dare say so. They suddenly appoint themselves as the judge and jury of Esquipulas II. They said that when the Central American presidents signed Esquipulas, they agreed the Contadora and Support Groups and the OAS and UN secretaries general would be the ones in charge of assessing the fulfillment and development of the agreement."

## Castro Inaugurates Matanzas Projects

*FL2406200488 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2216 GMT 22 Jun 88*

[Speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at a mass rally at Giron Victory Square in Matanzas—live]

[Text] Comrades of Matanzas: A few weeks ago, we met in Pinar del Rio Province with a large number of its residents. That was on 20 April on the occasion of 1 May, but we were also keeping in mind the great number of projects that Pinar del Rio residents had completed. Upon my arrival here, I said to Comrade Luis Alvarez de la Nuez: Luis, either the platform in Pinar del Rio was higher or it was on a hill, because the public could be seen better. At this height here, it's not easy to see everyone. The platform should have been a bit higher. I can also see over there that many children have been brought. This makes me wonder whether or not the same thing that happened in Pinar del Rio, which impressed us very much, will happen here. That was the attention that the public paid, the silence, at that event. Well, I said this must be the most well behaved and disciplined public I have ever seen. I do not think that you are any less disciplined than Pinar del Rio, but if you brought more children today, I don't think they'll win the emulation.

Anyway, every event of this type is a time for reflection. And we have come especially to speak, meditate, and think with you. After the event in Pinar del Rio, when the comrades from Matanzas Province told me that they had a large number of projects to inaugurate, among them the gigantic thermoelectric plant, I told them that it would also be a good time for us to meet with Matanzas residents. This event was going to take place earlier but the gigantic [thermoelectric plant] was not yet ready. So much the better, because with that rain in May and the rain during these days in June, no one was even sure whether or not we would hold this event during a storm. But nature, always so generous and lavish with our country, has given us an excellent, sunny day, a cool day in the midst of summer.

What is the reason for this event? Comrade Nato was explaining it here, speaking on behalf of the construction workers. Today we are inaugurating 25 projects. Although they may be of major or minor importance, there are 25 projects nevertheless. Some are very important. In this province, over 150 projects have been inaugurated within the first half of this year, and these are not just any kind of project. Among them, we are inaugurating today the largest thermoelectric plant in the country. Better said, the largest thermoelectric unit in the country, [applause] because the one in Mariel has a greater capacity with several units, as does the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes in Cienfuegos, the Nuevitas one, and the one in Santiago. But there is no other thermoelectric unit of 330,000 kw such as the one we are inaugurating today. It is the most modern, with the most advanced technology, and which uses less petroleum per kilowatt. It is an enormous investment of approximately 200 million pesos, over half of it in foreign currency.

Over $100 million was spent just on imported equipment and parts. To get an idea of the size of the unit, it is enough to say that its capacity is equal to that of all the thermoelectric units installed since 1958. After this unit, the largest ones are from Cienfuegos, which have approximately 160,000 kw, or some 16,000 megawatts. You can measure it in kilowatts or megawatts. I think that we all already know that 1 megawatt equals 1,000 kw.

This plant is being put into operation. There are always some problems when something is about to be put into operation, because it is a very complex industry. The boiler, turbines, generators, and a series of (?combined) equipment must all be working. This is not something that can be put into operation within 24 hours. The actual technicians, engineers, construction workers, and representatives of the French company have been there (?managing) the unit. They have been working very seriously along with our own people's efforts to put the thermoelectric plant into operation. As the problems have arisen, so have the solutions. The collective of that unit is truly optimistic about the prospects of the industry.

Some initial problems caused by the rain were also the reason for postponing this inauguration by a few days. Now, how much gas per kilowatt will this thermoelectric plant use? In 1958, we used 396 grams of fuel per each kilowatt of electricity that was produced— in other words, almost half a liter of fuel per each one of those kilowatts that you are using. When you watch television, or turn on an iron, blender, or whatever household appliance, radio, television, refrigerator, or air conditioning, electricity is being used. In 1958, the country used almost half a liter of fuel per each kilowatt of electricity. In 1987, as a result of the investments made in the electric power industry, the numerous Soviet and Czechoslovak units that have been set up in the country, and even some Japanese units, and now this French unit, the country used 272 grams per kilowatt. Fuel consumption has declined. It dropped from 396 to 272 [grams]. You must not forget that the price of fuel has increased by 14 to 15 times. What 1 gram of fuel cost in 1958 is 12 to 14 times less than what it cost after that. This is why the reduction to almost half of what a kilowatt of electricity costs is so important and fundamental. Almost half in fuel—although fuel costs a great deal more than it did in 1958. The oil shortage had not yet come about. The so-called oil crisis increased the price of fuel dramatically.

This very modern unit with very advanced technology can use 216 grams of petroleum per kilowatt of fuel. In other words, this plant helps to reduce the cost of fuel per kilowatt in our country by almost 10 grams.

Well, how much does a family unit use? Some consume more than others. However, at present, the consumption of our family unit is 125 kw per month. This means that there is a savings of almost one-quarter of a liter per family unit, per kilowatt. This equals a savings of approximately 30 liters per family unit. This is the importance of a plant with very advanced technology that saves fuel.

Of course, the next units that we will inaugurate, larger than these, will be for nuclear power. These are under construction in Cienfuegos. But this construction will take a long time. They are very complex. If everything goes well, however, it probably will be another 4 or 5 years before we inaugurate the first installations. Since the famous accident of Chernobyl—although that was another type of reactor, this is a much safer type of reactor—the nuclear power industry has taken many more measures for control of automation and safety of operations in those installations. The inauguration of the next nuclear power plants will be delayed by at least 2 years as a result of these measures. Already, they have a greater capacity than this. This one has a 330,000-kw capacity and each of the nuclear reactors will have a 417,000-kw capacity.

Aside from the four reactors under construction in Cienfuegos, a pump storage station [hydroacumuladora] will be built. As I have tried to explain on other occasions, a pump storage station is a reservoir. During the morning, water is pumped up from below. At peak hours, water is pumped downward, in the opposite direction, to produce electricity. A thermoelectric plant is shut down, whereas the nuclear power plant is only shut down when the fuel is being changed. This is why in a nuclear power plant there are times of surplus electricity, be it in the morning or during the day. During these hours of surplus electricity, water is pumped up. When there is a demand for electricity, the water is used to produce electricity. So, if the total capacity of the four reactors of Cienfuegos will be almost six or five and one-half times more than what this unit has, it, along with the nuclear power plant, will produce, during peak hours, the equivalent of an additional reactor. In other words, it will be the equivalent of 2,000 megawatts or 2 million kilowatts, as you may wish to measure it.

At the moment, this is not the only thermoelectric plant in construction.

A thermoelectric plant is being built to the east of Havana. It will have a capacity of 1.1 million kw. We began building it with Soviet units of 100,000 and we will continue to build it with units of 200,000. But we will have a huge central thermoelectric plant, although with smaller units than this one. I think the last unit in Nuevitas is being completed and the first units of Felton are under construction. The ones that I mentioned to the east of Havana and the one in Felton are very important because they are the only new electricity-generating units that the country will have before the reactors of Cienfuegos are put into operation. I think that this explanation will help the Matanzas residents understand the importance of this thermoelectric plant.

Now, there are other aspects of this new thermoelectric plant that are very important. I am talking about the work organization and efficiency measures being taken. I will give you an example. The payroll set up for one of these thermoelectric plants used to have almost 200

positions. In other words, it had a narrow profile. This kind of narrow profile causes a worker to be concerned only with one thing and not with other things around him. It causes the payroll to be inflated. And there is nothing worse for a country than inflated payrolls because twice as many workers are employed. It also causes costs to rise. There need to be larger cafeterias, more transportation, and more housing for the workers. With inflated payrolls, everything becomes much more expensive and much more inefficient.

Now, why did we have so many inflated payrolls in our country? This is simply because the profiles were too narrow. They were so narrow that it was difficult at times to find enough work for someone for 8 hours. If the payrolls for this new thermoelectric plant had been organized along traditional lines, we would have needed 531 workers. This figure has changed; sometimes it was said that 600 were necessary. Actually, with accuracy, the figure for this thermoelectric plant would have been 531 workers. However, this plant will operate with 249 workers. [applause] If we were a province with a surplus work force, we would be sad. We would say: What a pity. Just imagine if this were a capitalist enterprise. When there was so much unemployment in Cuba, the news that a [word indistinct] or an electric power monopoly such as the ones we had in our country would reduce the payroll of 531 workers to 249, this news would not have been applauded by anyone. After all, those were foreign monopoly interests, and now they are national monopoly interests. We will call it monopoly because it includes all the electric power industries of the country.

These are the interests of the national industry which do not belong to any foreign enterprise. Instead, these interests belong to whole nation and the benefits are for the whole nation. That is precisely the difference between capitalism and socialism. That is one of the many differences. The nation understands how beneficial it is for the country to employ 249 workers there instead of 531. They understand the savings, what it means in productivity, efficiency, and reduction of costs.

This is a true revolution because the problems that our country has had in many areas have not necessarily been a result of a surplus in the work force but rather a shortage. If you go to Cienfuegos, you will find that there are people there working in construction from all the provinces. This is because the population of Cienfuegos is not large enough to supply the appropriate work force for the industrial and social development of Cienfuegos. Because Cienfugos is a port, the refinery had to be located there, in a port. The new refinery was situated there, in a central location. The cement factory had to be put there, where there was raw material for the cement. The fertilizer industry had to be put there also because of the port facilities. Cienfuegos had to create more industries and build more than what the area itself was able to take care of. However, Matanzas is also a province with a work force shortage. [Crowd begins mumbling] Well, if it wants to rain, let it rain. [Crowd applauds] In that album that we were given there was a phrase uttered in 1974: Matanzas will have as many resources for investment as it is capable of building or operating.

We have always had a manpower deficit—for instance, in construction. There has been a big manpower deficit in construction in Matanzas. For example, we had to build a certain number of sheds for pigs or poultry and we came up against a shortage of labor for these buildings. A lot of projects had to be built in the province and we faced a labor shortage. That is why this province, more than any other, is among those most requiring rationalization of its personnel rosters, to make the best use of the labor force.

This province has achieved a certain level of development and is highly productive. It is one of the most productive provinces in the country. For example, you produce...[interrupted by applause] For example, you produce around a million tons of sugar and yet the Matanzas population is not even 600,000. In other words, you produce almost 2 tons, or at least 1.7, 1.8 tons, of sugar per inhabitant. In this area alone, you are producing more than 1.5 tons per inhabitant. You have many—tens of thousands—of workers employed in the sugar industry and sugar production.

This province has natural resources and has potential. It would be sad if for lack of manpower the province were not able to develop more. And it can develop so much! And it would be so useful to the rest of the country if the province developed to its full potential. One has to think not only of the people of Matanzas, but also of all Cubans. It is a province with great agricultural resources, excellent lands of great quality. It is a province with a very abundant water table. Of course, this water table goes down a lot in dry years. Or if you use irrigation techniques that waste water, then it goes down. However, it is a province with water tables that can be augmented with hydraulic works. It is a province with few rivers but one that has an amount of surface water that is still untapped.

So, where can the province's weak spot be? In the lack of manpower. Thus, it is highly significant that this plant is the first in the country to be inaugurated with these criteria and concepts. Notice that it will employ less than half the number of workers that would have been required under the old ideas that predated this process that is underway. Imagine if we could accomplish the same thing in all the industries, using the broad profile concept. In fact, these workers with broad profiles, who are going to save us wages, can be paid more than the ones working under the other system. We have proposed that a part of the amount saved in wages be used to raise the income of those workers with a broad profile. Instead of 161 different occupations, there will be 100 occupations. Activities that took three people to do before will

be done by one. And that's one person without killing himself. This is being done through the simple expediency of distributing jobs in a rational manner and giving the worker the right job.

You should not lose sight of the importance of labor organization for this new Matanzas industry, not only as a producer of electricity but also as a model to be imitated. It will be one more reason for you to feel proud of this enterprise. All this also helps the whole country. I hope the people of Matanzas don't use up all the electricity generated by the plant! There will be electricity for the east and for the west.

How much more electricity does Matanzas have now than before the revolution? It must be 10 or 12 times more. How much more electricity or capacity to generate electricity does the country have now than it had in 1958? It has a capacity 6.9 times greater. In other words, it has the capacity to generate almost 7 times more electricity than what it had before the triumph of the revolution. It also produces almost 7 times more electricity than what it produced before the time of the revolution. Before the revolution, the electrical system was not national. It was not linked or connected along the length and breadth of the country. If that particular plant goes out, you still get electricity from east Havana, or electricity from Cienfuegos, even from Nuevitas. The same thing happens if there is a problem in Cienfuegos or in Nuevitas, or if repair or maintenance is needed at that unit. When repairs or maintenance are done, the unit must be turned off. Then the electricity comes from other areas. In the past, there was not an electrical system in Cuba. A foreign monopoly managed the bulk of it. But the country's electrical services were provided by 60 different systems, 60 different owners.

Today the system is interlinked along the length and breadth of the country. There is a single system supported by its own industries but it can also receive electricity from other industries. For example, the sugar plants during the harvest periods also provide their surplus of electricity for consumption. We try to equip the modern and older sugar plants with more efficient boilers. Before, the boilers would serve as trash cans for the waste pulp. Today, the waste pulp is used in the production of paper, wood, purple dye (purpural), energy, and many things. Today its a good idea to save waste pulp. Every 5 tons of waste pulp equals 1 ton of petroleum. The 20 million tons of waste pulp that we use is equivalent to 4 million tons of petroleum.

This growth in the country's electrical industry has allowed nearly the entire population of Cuba to have electricity. For example, in 1958 only 56 percent of the population had electricity. Many family units only got electricity for a few hours. By 1987, 86 percent of the Cuban population already had electricity. And development continues on ambitious plans to take electricity wherever possible, especially as the cooperative movement develops or communities are created, because electricity cannot be taken to each isolated hut in the country. However, this year more than 60,000 family units will receive electricity in the eastern province, in addition to those who are in other areas of the country. In 1990, 90 percent of the population will have electricity, and in almost all cases, they will have electricity 24 hours a day. Very few areas will remain isolated. That is tangible proof of the development and progress of the country during these years. There are actually very few Third World countries that can say 90 percent of their population has electricity.

That is why we had to build tens of thousands of power lines. The lines used to be 33,000 kilovolt [kv] lines, then 110,000 kv lines, then 200,000 kv lines, and now we are already thinking of 500,000 kv power lines. The higher the tension, the greater the energy savings in transmission of electricity. From the initial 13,000 km of power lines in the country there are now 56,000 km. There are 3.3 times more family units with electricity than there were in 1958. And what was the consumption of a family unit in 1958? It was 69 kw per month. Today, it is 125 kw per month. If you are going along the road, you can see the little television antennas everywhere. And inside the houses, you will find everything it has been possible to buy. However, our family units today use almost twice as much electricity as they did in 1958. That is also a concrete and obvious (?example) of the social progress and improvement in the standard of living in our country during these years.

Of course, this doesn't mean that we should waste electricity. We have to find equipment to help us save energy. There are some kinds of televisions which use four times more electricity than others. Even when it comes to household electrical appliances, we must try to save energy by using more economical ones. We must also look for more economical systems in the transmission of electricity to save the energy that is lost in the process. We must also develop the concept of conservation. In the mountains, we are taking advantage of all the small rivers to produce hydroelectric energy. A small hydroelectric plant produces enough energy for 100, 120, 130 households. It is renewable energy that never runs out and that does not cost a gram of petroleum. The child care centers that we are building already have solar heaters. We must develop the system of solar heaters in schools, child care centers, and even in the houses. This way, we can have hot water without using energy. We must keep up to date on the latest developments in solar energy use and energy from the wind.

We propose to make investments in this area to try it out, since we have plenty of sun and wind. Perhaps a solar energy plant can take care of the needs of a whole community. Or maybe, energy produced by wind. We have to look at all these options.

For the time being, we have no alternative other than electronuclear energy. Since all the country's energy comes from oil, we are thinking of building a nuclear

power plant in the east and another in the west. For the time being, we have no other alternative. It is very difficult to power a textile plant, for instance, with a windmill. A textile plant consumes thousands [unit not specified]. So does a hospital. Nevertheless, we should not be pessimistic. We should explore all the options being developed around the world to use the sun, an inexhaustible source of energy. Wind is also an inexhaustible energy source. Oil is expensive and it will get more expensive as time goes on. Someday the human race will be sorry that it consumed so much oil. The world's oil reserves, accumulated over hundreds of millions of years, are being depleted in a few years.

The human race has been burning oil, which has so many other uses, in these past few decades because other options were not developed to solve energy problems. And without electricity there is no development. Without electricity, we cannot move forward. Without electricity there is no progress. Electricity is needed in schools, child care centers, hospitals, factories, cold storage units, everywhere. The country has made great efforts in these past few years to build the strong energy base it now has.

Well, I have spoken a lot about electricity but we haven't only inaugurated a power plant. It's not the only thing we are doing in Matanzas. We made a tour lasting several hours and we saw a lot of things underway in Matanzas. For instance, we have seen the highway that now connects Cardenas with Varadero. We have seen the highway that is going to connect Matanzas with Varadero. A 4-lane highway. We have seen the road that goes from the highway under construction to the new airport; the road will be widened from two to four lanes.

We have seen the airport under construction. International airlines will be able to land here this year. So, we have an enormously important international airport under construction in Matanzas. This will make it possible... [applause] This will make it possible for international airlines to have direct flights. In a few minutes, you can be in Matanzas, or Varadero. It means an excellent alternate airport. If you can't land in Boyeros, you can land here in Matanzas. If you can't land in Camaguey, you can land in Matanzas. You know how the weather gets sometimes. Cloudy. The airports close down. Of course, you can always land in Miami. [laughter] You have to land in Boyeros, Camaguey [Castro chuckles], or Santiago de Cuba. So this airport is not only helping the development of tourism and the province. It helps to make national flights safer. It's a tremendous airport and it is being built in a relatively short time.

We went by the pedraplen under construction in Cardenas Bay. What's a pedraplen, you may ask. It's simply a type of road built on rocks that extends out into the water. I am now going to talk about two topics of importance for the country, and they are very important for this province because these resources are here.

First of all, I am going to talk about oil. Matanzas Province has the biggest oil deposits in the country right now. All of this developed following the revolution. [applause] We can say about our oil what Marti said about our wine. Marti is quoted as saying that our wine is bitter but it is our wine. In the same way, we can say that our oil is heavy but it is our oil! [applause] Several cement plants are using this heavy oil directly, and functioning. One of the principal industries in Cardenas is operating with gas from the Varadero deposit. A sugar mill is working with gas and saves on bagasse, which can be used for paper and other things. And these are not only the deposits that are already being exploited.

In this case, oil and beaches have been close, so that we are edgy when we see the towers everywhere and we see that we are making big investments in tourism and oil. Yet this helps us develop an awareness for disciplined work, environmental protection. In general, the tourist doesn't like it too much when he sees the oil towers. We hope that in a relatively short time all the necessary wells will be drilled in Varadero. The small ones will not be so easily seen; we can disguise them. This way we won't have a clash between two big resources: oil and tourism.

Very well, the oil structures extend to the east through the whole Bay of Cardenas, and even further than the Bay of Cardenas. Today, studies are being carried out and explorations will be done. There are oil structures larger than the one in Varadero. However, we were faced with an obstacle: the ocean, the swamps.

There was no way of reaching the swamps. We had forgotten that in the first years of the revolution, in 1959, we began building the highway to Playa Larga and Playa Giron. As a matter of fact, the mercenaries tried to take advantage of that but it cost them dearly. Nevertheless, they wanted to take advantage of the road that the revolution had built. [applause] To cross the swamps you need causeways. This means you need to throw stones and more stones into the water until you find the firmest bottom and build a road on the stones. This is not the first causeway. Over a year ago, in another part of the country, over there near Ciego de Avila, we began to build a causeway. This was like an experiment. It was an experimental causeway to connect solid ground or territory with a key. We have not talked much about that one because we said, let's not talk a lot about that which is simply in an experimental phase. It has progressed a lot. We decided to apply the experience we gained from the causeway in Ciego de Aviala to the exploration and development of oil. There we were, in the Bay of Cardenas, with a depth of up to 3, 4, 4 ½ meters. We also had a large amount of mud in the bottom. We had to throw in 5 or 6 meters of stone. We did the calculations. A Soviet platform was supposed to be where that causeway is now. The Soviet steel platform, weighing more than 1,000 tons, costs approximately 12 million rubles. Furthermore, there are additional costs for preparation, setting up, and transportation. We had to to drill 1,600 meters from the coast. That is where we applied the idea of a causeway. At the end, we will know exactly how much the causeway costs. The costs will probably be a little higher because we have to build an islet with a sort of pool in the

middle. In other words, it won't have stones in the middle of it but will have improvement [as heard] where columns will be installed so that drilling machines can be placed on those columns. That is how we plan to use the causeway. We do not expect the causeway to cost more than half a million pesos. Compare that to the 12 million, plus installation costs and other things. Compare that to the 16 million the platform costs. We are still getting the platform. But we are taking it to a deeper place where it is logical to have it even if it costs a lot more. However, there are a lot of swamps around the eastern part of Cardenas which we are going to explore and exploit using the causeways. We are going to reach all those keys to the northern part of the province. We are also going to extend for more than 20 km the possibilities of ocean exploration, drilling, and oil production.

We are already building a second causeway from Marti to some keys to the north. In the first half of next year, we also expect to be drilling there. We are going to drill in places we didn't even know we would get to. Therefore, we are determined to give great impetus to oil exploration, drilling, and extraction in the province. Much more attention to man is required in this sphere. I was studying measures for that. Very dedicated people are required, because each drilling machine must drill the maximum meters per year. We cannot take 2 years to drill something that takes 12 months. We cannot take 12 months for exploration that should take 5 or 6 months. It is a very important, urgent resource of the country. We must look for oil, because it will be difficult to obtain greater quantities than we get now. We must look for our oil for our development. That is why we are determined to push ahead with oil exploration, drilling, and production activities.

Within that plan, the province of Matanazas occupies an important role. It already has experienced important development; there is oil production in the area of Varadero. There are already three collection centers which send, through pipes, the fuel to the main center. Today, we have also completed an oil pipeline from that main center all the way to the points of oil (?loading) in Cardenas. It is a very important project. If you look at a diagram of oil exploration and development, you will see a job well done, a job that could not have been imagined 10 years ago. Today we have much more technology, people with much more experience and training. These people are capable of developing, with discipline, the scientific methods for exploration of one of those oil fields. Therefore, the province of Matanzas is in a position to play an important role in the field of oil production. We do not know what we are going to find over there. However, we will drill wherever we find something, and we are going to push production forward. There you have, Matanazas residents, another important task. We need the work force to handle that machinery, to build installations, and to develop an important source of investments for the country. All that in the sphere of the oil industry.

You have a great resource in this province, and that is the Varadero Peninsula. That peninsula has great unexploited possibilities. Today, we have some 2,000 rooms for international tourists.

There will be 5,000 new rooms in the next 4 [corrects himself] 3 years. But there can be 30 times as many on the peninsula. In conservative figures, 30,000 rooms can be built on the peninsula. With the few we have today, Varadero takes in $37 million. It is growing each year. Foreign exchange income has doubled in the past 2 years in Varadero.

And you know how much we need foreign exchange. We are left without a spare part for this machine, the raw material for that industry, etc. The industry can be soap, perfume, toothpaste. No foreign exchange means that we are short of the aluminum for construction materials. We are short the copper for the power lines, the telephone lines. We are short the spare parts for the machinery. We are short this and that raw material. Or it means that we only have the last shipload. Foreign exchange income is very important.

Suffice to say that a big, important hospital requires up to $3 million in convertible currency each year. Anyone can go to the hospital, but the hospital requires expensive equipment, surgical material, parts for the equipment, medicine. We can't produce everything here. This means that what Varadero takes in is spent by 12 big hospitals in convertible currency. And when you talk about building a hospital, the expense in convertible currency could be $7, $8, or $10 million. Unfortunately, we can't get everything we need in the USSR. We can't get everything in the socialist bloc. There are many things we have to get in the capitalist bloc and they have to be paid with sugar bought at low prices or other exports.

Thus we have a tremendous resource there provided by nature. If we earn $37 million with less than 3,000 rooms, imagine if Varadero one day had 30,000 rooms. We could earn 10 times more. We could earn $400, $500, $600, or $700 million in Varadero. The better the service and the more quality hotels, the more we will earn. Generally, tourists come here in winter, when no one here wants to swim in the sea. They prefer a hot shower. It's a tradition. But not swimming in the sea. Tourists come in smaller numbers in the summer. Of course, we hope that they will come then too, so that we can use some of the facilities in the summer. Maybe one of these hotels can operate this way.

Some hotels will be totally controlled for the country's use. Most of them... [changes thought] Some hotels, not many, will be jointly owned with firms with a lot of experience in tourism, which is what we need: experience in tourism. How to run a hotel, how to treat a tourist. If there ever was anything like that here, there is none of it today. The tourism here was one of prostitution. That's

over now. A tourism of gambling. A tourism of drugs. There's nothing of that here, nor will there ever be. There's nothing of that here, nor will there ever be. [repeats himself] [applause]

Under capitalism it was an easy thing to set up a whorehouse. Many people had no other alternative. To create honest jobs is something else. To develop the capability to exploit this natural resource and to treat a tourist the way he should be treated are not easy tasks. Our country was isolated for many years. If it ever had a few habits, it lost them. Now it is engaged in recovering them, in learning how to treat a tourist, something that seems to be so easy. A tourist must be treated with the utmost courtesy, hospitality, politeness. You have to train for this. I feel that tourism is going to be one of the good-paying jobs in our country. Of course, we have to select our personnel and we have to be demanding with them. Discipline must be rigorous. Without discipline, there's no chance to develop those natural resources. Dealing with foreigners requires good qualifications and training.

Of course, our people have levels of culture not found in any Third World country, levels of education not found in any Third World country. You go to a lot of those places that today exploit tourism and find that many of the people are illiterate. Our young people today have a 9th grade education. Most of our young people have a high school education. We have a fantastic educational foundation to enable us to train true international tourism workers who will be suitably paid.

I was saying that this was not going to be just for foreigners. Except for those jointly-owned hotels, where sending a Cuban would mean spending foreign exchange, most of the hotels will be under national control. The ones that are not used in the summer months can be used by our people, who tend to go only 2 months a year. Of course, it's impossible for this country or anywhere else in the world to have enough rooms for all people during a period of only 2 months out of the year. That's why we have been developing camping and other possibilities.

First we have to solve all the housing problems before investing huge resources to solve the problem of the many rooms that are needed in July and August. Imagine, we would need a city the size of New York in the vicinity of the beaches. That's what would be needed. We have to think about it.

Those resources are going to be for our people, but indirectly they are also going to benefit extraordinarily. Imagine if one day Matanzas can say, we are earning $500 million or $600 million in present-day dollars. I am not talking about future dollars because no one knows how much a dollar will be worth. The dollar is always going down, down, down. It's not the same to speak of $100 million today and $100 million 30 years ago.

Anyway, we want to be able to say someday that Varadero is earning $500 or $600 million for the country. What an extraordinary help to the economy! We believe it can be done if we develop all its potential. We are building highways and airports. Right now we are building some 10 hotels and also "apartment-hotels"—a new name. It's a facility for tourists. It is not precisely a hotel. They are like apartments but they have restaurants nearby where people can eat, a store where they can shop.

So, an intensive effort is underway but a greater one will have to be made so that in the shortest time possible we'll be fully exploiting that extraordinary natural resource. What would an industrialized European country do if it had beaches such as this one? Not a single square inch would go unused. What would an industrialized country do if it had the 115 km of beaches we have in the keys off the north coast? Using the same roads as for oil exploration, we will reach all the beaches in the keys off the country's north coast. That's 115 km of beaches. It can be said that Cuba has more expanses of beach than all the rest of the Caribbean countries put together. Tourism is one of the sources of income in many of these countries.

These are remote areas in Las Villas, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, and Camaguey Provinces. We have to plan on exploiting these resources and we are building the first causeways, which are going to be used for both oil and tourism. This one is 1.6 km long. The other one where we started testing is going to be 24 km long. It's going to be finished this year. A few men have worked well and fast there. A handful of men, working night and day. Double shifts. They have made incredible progress. They were thinking of connecting the key to the island by 26 July but the rains were too heavy. They wanted to be ahead of schedule. But I say, it will be connected this year—an important key with the mainland.

There are seismologists, the exploration brigades are already there, looking for the right geological conditions to start drilling and exploring for oil. I tell you that these men are working with impressive productivity and at an infinitesimal cost.

What would France do if it had those 115 km of tropical beaches, with that sun, with those clear and quite clean waters. The Mediterranean beaches are increasingly polluted. How about those countries where it is tremendously cold, even in the summer? They fill up any little bit of beach with facilities. It is a natural resource for our country and we must think of ways to exploit it in an intelligent and revolutionary way. We will have tourism that is not based on those three things I mentioned: prostitution, drugs, and gambling.

Can there be a more drug-free country in the world than ours? Is there? [Crowd answers: "No!"] Is there a healthier country than ours? Is there a healthier one than ours in the entire Third World? [Crowd answers: "No!] No, there isn't.

AIDS is terrorizing the world today. There are millions of carriers and we have AIDS under control. We discovered it in time, in time [repeats himself]. [applause]

We rapidly applied all measures. We have reduced it and it is not growing. This is the only country where AIDS is not increasing because of the wise, intelligent measures that have been adopted, taking into account the circumstances of those that have had the misfortune of being contaminated with the virus. We are going to have a very health country. It will be a tranquil country with order, with complete peace in the area of internal order. These are conditions that cannot be offered by any other nation. We have very well-instructed, well-trained people.

You, the people of Matanzas, have another very important task here where you can give special services to the country. I think that Matanzas is the Athens of Cuba. Some comrades have told me how impressed they are with the cultural and educational level of this province. It is something historic. It is traditional. Is there any other population that is better prepared to deal with tourists than the province of Matanzas?

Matanzas Province not only builds industries. It is not only industrial. The province not only drills for oil or develops tourism. I already mentioned that it is one of the largest producers of sugar in the country. It also is the largest citrus producer in the country. [applause]

Several years ago, several years ago [repeats himself], Matanzas produced just a few tons of citrus. There were just a few stray plants out there in the Jaguey region, in that rocky territory where a plough cannot enter, where no traditional agriculture can be carried out. Now, there are more than 45,000 hectares of citrus plants and 65 schools in the area. [applause]

The more than 45,000 hectares had to be planted after dynamite was used to break the rocky ground. We took advantage of the microclimate, water table, and the excellent natural conditions to produce citrus there. It's a hell of a piece of territory which had to be dominated by using technology. Very heavy bulldozers were used to go over the rocks. I repeat, dynamite was used to make holes.

During the past few years, the largest citrus plantation has developed. It is the largest citrus plantation in the world. Nowhere else in the world is there a plantation that exceeds 45,000 hectares like this one, which continues to grow until it reaches 50,000 hectares and maybe even 60,000. I think [changes thought]... We can say with pride for the country, as well as the people of Matanzas, that there is no plantation similar to this one anywhere else.

The plantation is basically maintained by students based on the work-study principle which also is not practiced in other areas of the world and which is one of the [applause] glories and honors of our revolution to practice the principles of Marti and Marx, to combine study with work. We are virtually the only country in the world that has consequently applied this principle.

Is it strange, then, that no one is frightened when called upon to do volunteer work? Out of all of you, all the youth we see here, and all those around the ages of 39 or 40 who were about 15 or 16 at the time the revolution triumphed, who did not participate in the rural school? Who did not work many weeks every year in the country with their hands? Who did not attend a country school? Those who were not in one thing were doing another. They might have started early in primary school with a school garden.

It is said today that if they call for minibrigades, people turn out in swarms. If the people are called upon to prepare themselves, to build fortifications, ditches, and other things, everyone shows up. If a child care center, school, or hospital needs to be built, all the neighbors show up.

The revolution did not form a society of intellectuals to universalize studies. A society of intellectuals was not created because along with studies, the habit of working with one's hands was universalized.

Which of you is frightened, trembles with fear, you youths that I see here in the front row and elsewhere? Do you tremble with fear? [crowd answers: "No!"] When you have to do something with your hands, do you tremble? No. No. [repeats himself] [crowd answers: "No!] Because you were educated in this manner. See what these principles are worth. See what the revolutionary principles are worth.

I ask myself if there is any other place in the world where these values are so universal. I ask myself if there is any other place in the world where volunteer work has the support it has in Cuba, has the massive participation it has in Cuba. What's so strange about the men of the Blas Roca contingent? Or the men in the contingent organized here for the construction of the supertanker port? Or the contingent that is building facilities in Varadero in just a few months? The revolution's work has not been for nothing. The kind of education given to our young and to our people has not been for nothing.

What will we not be capable of? We have been capable of defending the country. Who defends our country? We do; our people do. Can anyone but the people themselves defend the country? [crowd shouts: "No."] Lenin said that a revolution not capable of defending itself was not worthy of calling itself a revolution. I feel that when he said it, he was thinking of the immense Soviet Union, the old empire of the tsars, where he made the revolution, where he launched the revolution. Perhaps he was not thinking of a tiny country such as ours which at the triumph of the revolution had only 6.5 million people. Can anyone deny that our people were able to defend themselves? Can anyone deny that our people, who today number over 10 million, are capable of defending themselves?

Can imperialism disregard our capacity to defend ourselves? [crowd replies: "No."] It cannot. This readiness and organization of our people for defense has reduced the dangers hovering over our fatherland. Imperialism knows that any aggression against our country will irremediably besmirch it. Who would meddle with such a swarm of people? Such a beehive? It would have no other alternative but defeat. Our small country...[interrupted by applause] Our small country has been capable of defending itself. The principles that the socialist revolution brought to our people have prepared us for many things. They have prepared us for defense, for work, for development. For our generation and the new generations, these years are essentially years of work. We have to make up for centuries lost. We have to develop the country. We have to catch up with the most advanced countries. We are catching up with them in some areas. We are catching up with them in the medical field. And not just that. I believe that we are going to leave many industrialized countries behind.

These possibilities stem from the principles instilled by the revolution in the hearts of our people. No wonder that one of the reasons we are meeting here, one of the motivations, is to inaugurate this group of projects which mark a new stage. Projects are now finished. Projects now have to be completed. No project can last forever, because to do that is to bury cement, bury fuel, bury machinery, bury resources, bury the sweat and efforts of the people. Projects now have to be completed. [applause] Now we talk with satisfaction of all the many completed projects here. We can do it because of the qualities of our people. We know our limitations. We also know our defects. But we cannot ignore the principles and qualities that have been developed among our people and which make all these prospects possible.

I was mentioning just a while ago the example of the contingents. Right there, at the supertanker port, a contingent of 400 workers has been organized to work on the ground installations since a lot of progress has already been made in the ocean installations. In a relatively short time, 150,000-ton supertankers will be able to anchor there. This saves a lot of transportation costs. Supplying the country using 30,000-ton ships and utilizing 150,000-ton ships are not the same. This also means another important service rendered by the people of Matanzas to the rest of the country. Port services. Gas pipeline services. It is from this supertanker port that the oil will be piped to the new refinery in Cienfuegos. Oil will get there in a matter of minutes, without train or tanker truck caravans, which use up almost as much gasoline as the amount of oil they are transporting. It will be a tremendous service to be able to supply the thermoelectric plant in eastern Havana from this point, to be able to supply the oil Cienfuegos needs.

It will be a tremendous service to supply fuel to Camaguey. You are seeing another important field in full development, another reason for the nation to express recognition and gratitude to the people of Matanzas. [applause]

These pipelines are under construction. The western refineries will be able to send gasoline and diesel from Havana to Camaguey. You can see what an important development, what savings. Just as one day the electric power systems were linked, so will our pipelines or multi-use pipelines [poliductos], as they are called now because they not only carry oil but also oil by-products. Today all of this has to be transported in trucks over roads or in trains. In the future, this will be carried by oil or gas pipelines or multi-use pipelines. Multi-use pipelines carry a variety of things. I don't know how engineers have come up with these systems which make it possible to send a variety or different kinds of fuel through the same pipelines.

We talk about this, about gigantic programs, such as the citrus one I talked about. Big port facilities, such as the ones for the supertankers. Big power installations. Big pipelines. Big tourist centers that might bring in hundreds of millions. Big national oil production. Then we add to this the sugar industry; the industries being developed in Matanzas; the field of construction, which has to be intensified; agriculture in Matanzas, which has to produce increasing amounts of milk, poultry, pork, vegetables, and tubers and has done so successfully this year with almost 10 percent growth so far. Matanzas has also had excellent results in the sugar harvest despite the fact that it suffered a terrible drought. It met and in fact exceeded the sugar plan by around 42,000 tons. [applause]

Those sugar mills, those sugar mills [repeats] have tens of thousands of workers. Those agroindustrial complexes—there's a new one. It has given evidence of the experience regarding sugar of the people of Matanzas because it is the first one in the country that, in its first year, fulfilled and overfulfilled the plans. [applause]

Citrus production will continue to grow, and is increasing by hectares. It was about 11 percent in 1987. The increase in 1988 is about 14 percent. This is an increase in citrus production from one year to the next in comparison to the same period in 1987. This year we are producing 38 percent more citrus. This is a considerable rate of growth.

Who has harvested the citrus? The students have. They have done 80 percent of the harvest. This is very impressive, very impressive [repeats himself]. [applause]

The largest plantation in the world is fundamentally being taken care of by students. See what kind of youths we have. See what kind of youths we are training. [applause] Tell me if there is any other place like this, any other precedent, or similar event.

The party sent us the reports on what was harvested last year, in 1987. I still remember when we celebrated the first million. Now we are harvesting many millions a year and the time will come when we will have filled sack No 10 million. It is growing. The plantations are getting

older. The number of hectares in production increases. The yield per hectare increases because of the application of science and technology. Each time we will get more from that same hectare by using a more modern irrigation system, which saves more water to make this resource available for other things.

All this is sustained on the principles of Marx and Marti, combining study and work. Of course there are activities that have to be done by workers but I ask myself, where would Matanzas have found the work force to carry out that gigantic task in distant areas that have a smaller population? Would the workers of the town of Jaguey, the workers of Jaguey municipality, have been able to care for 45,000 hectares of citrus? Look at the importance of these principles and see how these students have made this plan possible at the same time that they are being trained and educated.

With all these plans, with all these plans [repeats himself] will there be too many workers in Matanzas? We have to conserve every worker in Matanzas so that each one can have the opportunity for maximum productivity. I ask myself, would we be able to speak of all these things, the projects that have been inaugurated, and the 25 projects that we are inaugurating today, like the beer factory, the remodeling of the pediatric center, a series of projects, train terminals, economic or social installations, 25 projects; I won't mention them all. There's a list here somewhere. I have spoken of the principle areas.

Could we speak of all this if we hadn't mechanized the sugar harvest? Would the people of Matanzas be speaking of these plans if they had to cut all the cane by hand and carry it by hand as was done during the times of capitalism? If they had to plow the land with oxen as they did during the times of capitalism, would they be talking about these plans? If they had to carry sugar in sacks, harvest rice with a scythe, or build everything by hand, would they be talking about all this? In addition to producing 1 million tons of sugar, how can we do all these other things? We can do everything else because 80 percent of the harvest is mechanized in this province. [applause] Machines [applause] have made this miracle possible. One hundred percent of the harvest is done by machine.

It would be a dream to talk about other things without having mechanized our agriculture. This is the importance of technology in the development of a country. To cut and carry the more than 700 million arrobas that this province harvested this year, the men would have had to work hard for several months if they had to do it by hand.

Even now, with everything mechanized in agriculture and construction, the things we propose to do seem like a dream. This indicates that we have to continue to elevate production. We need to continue applying the principles with which we have inaugurated this thermoelectric center. I think the people of Matanzas understand this. I think the people of Matanzas know this.

We have great plans. We have to build many child care centers, schools, family doctor-nurse house-offices, and dams. Out of a plan for 500 million [cubic meters of surface water] or more, we have only built dams for 100 million, approximately. We have to develop water conservation in this province. We'll do everything possible to set up a minidam brigade to work in the cooperatives, and a dams brigade to work in bigger reservoirs. They will be set up this very year as an expression of our will to conserve water resources. We are going to keep drilling holes, immersion wells so that the water will not overflow and will not run to the sea; so that the water will go to the water table, that huge reservoir that nature gave us. If we can get 500 million cubic meters of surface water, the water table can provide us with around 1.5 billion cubic meters.

So, if we build all the dams that can be built in the province, there will be 3 cubic meters in the water table for each cubic meter on the surface. That's an advantage, to be able to open a well and start irrigating. Besides, if we apply the spray and drop-by-drop systems, we can get double or triple production with the same amount of water. This is enormously important. The country today can discuss these options.

And I ask you: Almost 30 years ago, when the revolution triumphed, could we have talked about plans such as these? Could the things done today have been done then? [crowd replies: "No."] Plans, projects. Could we have scores of university graduates working in agro-industrial complexes? [crowd replies: "No."] Or engineers in those power plants? The number of young talent that have been trained by the revolution is incredible. Experience is being gained in oil exploration, drilling, exploitation. This does not mean that we know everything or anything like that. We know there's a lot to be learned, but we already have a promising foundation for our people's economic and social development.

I was telling you, or I started to tell you a while back, that there was something else that motivated the people of Matanzas. That was the fact that it was the 60th anniversary of the birth of Che. [prolonged applause] What better way to pay tribute to Che than by inaugurating scores of projects, organizing contingents, rationalizing payrolls, operating a power plant with less than half of the workers it would take? What better tribute to Che than the creation or the rebirth of the minibrigades, of the 70 minibrigades the province has today to meet the needs for housing and so many other social needs we still have? What better tribute than to move forward in the defense of the country? To train to continue to be strong, invincible, and indestructible? What better tribute than to foster volunteer work, which Che pioneered?

What better tribute than to be able to proclaim that our students in our study and work schools are doing 80 percent of the work in the biggest plantation of citrus fruit in the world? What better tribute than those who are building a causeway in a few months by working

night and day? What better tribute than those men who are building a big facility of more than 100 rooms in a few months? What better tribute than the spirit of those contingents, who following the example of the Blas Roca contingent, continue to multiply in our country?

Che could not...[corrects himself] was able to see the schools where students spent their free time working in agriculture, but he could not see those new forms combining study and work: the rural schools. I am sure that he would be happy and proud of our people for whose freedom he fought and for whose freedom he was ready to sacrifice everything at all times. [applause]

That is why the people of Matanzas today pay heartfelt tribute to Che. We also honor another illustrious revolutionary fighter who died here in El Morrillo one 8 May: Antonio Guiteras. [applause] Long before 1959 he did not hesitate to intervene in the American power company. That rebellious and dignified stance was what later led him to give up his life. He was vilely murdered in this province by the Batista henchmen. In honor of his exemplary conduct, this country, where we don't forget the sacrifice of men, the qualities of men, and these grateful people, in his honor, has decided to name the biggest power plant in the country after him. [applause]

People of Matanzas, I have tried to outline the efforts you have made. I have tried to describe the merits of the men and women of this province. I have tried to outline the large tasks we have ahead of us. I have tried to note the large services the country expects from the people of Matanzas. [applause]

I ask you: Are you at the height of those responsibilities. [Crowd responds: "Yes!"]. Are you able to carry out those tasks? [Crowd responds: "Yes!"] Are you able to fulfill this? [Crowd responds: "Yes!"]

I will express my own conviction that you are able to carry out this large program, that you will be able to carry out these tasks. [applause] You will be able to fulfill these goals with Matanzas, the fatherland, and with the revolution. [applause]

Allow me... [applause] to express our infinite confidence in you on behalf of our party, our glorious party—organizer of our people, guide of our people, leader of our people—without which these results would not be possible. This revolutionary awareness would be impossible without the party. These successes would not have been possible without the party. This is why I want to stress at the conclusion of this ceremony the role of our party. The people of Matanzas know this. [applause] The people of Matanzas know this [repeats himself]. Our party, party members, and all our people always will be in the first trenches defending the fatherland, at work, or will be giving attention to the people, no matter how difficult. [crowd applauds and chants: "Fidel! Fidel! Fidel"]

This will once again be an expression of that truth that all those who are in our party are communists. Our people, members of youth organizations, and even those who are not members of youth organizations or the party, are a communist people. [applause] This is why, compatriots of Matanzas, communist people that you are, I invite you to proclaim with more conviction and strength than ever, our glorious slogan: Fatherland or death, we will win!

## Cooperation Talks With Angola To Open 29 June

*FL2806194488 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jun 88*

[Text] In the next few days, Cuba and Angola will sign a new scientific-technical cooperation agreement that will strengthen relations begun in 1975. Since then, hundreds of thousands of Cuban internationalists specializing in science, technology, education, and culture have been to Angola without any thought of economic reward. The new protocol will be signed in Luanda during the seventh meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission to start tomorrow. It will prioritize areas such as education and health.

Cuba will cooperate in more than 25 sectors of the Angolan economy, and the new protocol will confirm the advantageous conditions existing for the two sides.

Meanwhile, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, speaking to the eighth summit of heads of state and government of Portuguese-speaking countries, described the situation in southern Africa as one of the most explosive in the world. He stressed that Angola is fully endeavoring to make the situation end in a peace agreement whose main point will be the application of UN Resolution 435 defining the conditions for Namibian independence. Dos Santos stated that South African troops still occupy Angolan territory and therefore the progress of Angolan forces in the south supported by Cuban internationalists is not a threat but a way to exercise sovereignty in the face of the invaders.

For his part, the Reverend (Frank Chikan), secretary general of the South African Council of Churches, told journalists in Pretoria that the policy of the regime headed by Pieter Botha must be stopped because it could lead to a bloody war involving all of southern Africa.

## Brazilian Welfare Minister, Delegation Arrive

*FL2806122188 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jun 88*

[Text] Renato Archer, Brazilian welfare and social security minister, has arrived in Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban state. Archer will learn about the achievements of the Cuban revolution, especially in the public health sector.

During their stay in our country, the Brazilian delegation will tour hospital centers and locations of historic, economic, and social interest.

The delegation was met at the Jose Marti International Airport by Cuban Public Health Minister Julio Teja and Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon.

In response to questions by the press, Archer said that ties of friendship have existed with Cuba since Brazil defended our interests in 1961 in Punta del Este. He also said that he was proud to visit our medical installations and that the visit will benefit the two countries.

### Meets Health Minister

*FL2906024688 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] Today Mr Renato Archer Bayma da Silva, minister of welfare and social security of the Republic of Brazil, met with Julio Teja, minister of public health of Cuba, at the headquarters of that organization.

Mr Archer Bayma da Silva, who is in Cuba at the invitation of the revolutionary government, received a brief explanation on our health system and the training program for medical and paramedical personnel. He was also briefed on the assistance that our country gives to other nations in the training of specialists and care of the population.

The Cuban health minister discussed the medical industry, which is undergoing some development. He also talked about Cuba's production of high technology equipment and furniture for the care centers. Some of this equipment is effectively used in other countries' hospitals.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Comrade Minister, what do you expect from this exchange with the Cuban colleagues?

[Archer] I expect very interesting results for both countries. Today Cuba holds a very important position in the context of the countries which have developed the most in that field. [end recording]

The minister of welfare and social security of the Republic of Brazil praised the progress of public health in Cuba, in particular the low infant mortality rates. He also gave an explanation on the structure of medical services in his country.

As part of their activities in Cuba, the Brazilian medical delegation visited a family doctor house office in the [name indistinct] neighborhood, and they expressed interest in the benefits this office provides for the residents.

During their stay in Cuba, they will visit hospitals and medical research centers.

### Cambodian Vice Foreign Minister Arrives

*FL2806033488 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jun 88*

[Text] Today Ulises Estrada, acting Cuban foreign vice minister, received (Loan Chisado), vice foreign minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. (Chisado) was received at the Ministry of Foreign Relations. He is heading a Cambodian delegation which is visiting our country.

### Cooperation Meeting With Poland Opens

*FL2706194388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Jun 88*

[Text] The 11th plenum of the Poland-Cuba intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation has begun its sessions in Warsaw. The meeting will extend until 29 June, and a final protocol will be signed on the same day.

### Cultural Agreement With Poland Ratified

*FL2506011488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1943 GMT 24 Jun 88*

[Text] The ceremony for the signing and exchange of the instruments ratifying the agreement between Cuba and the Polish People's Republic on cultural, educational, and scientific cooperation was held this afternoon at the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

The agreement was signed in Warsaw on 17 June 1987 and now, after having been duly examined and found to be in order, has been ratified in Havana.

The ratification instruments were signed by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Miguel Brugueras del Valle and Polish Ambassador Czesla Dega.

For years the two countries have had extensive cooperation in the areas of culture, education, and science.

### Communications Agreement With Yugoslavia

*FL2906143988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] In Havana Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has expressed his satisfaction with the signing of a cooperation agreement with Yugoslavia in the communications area. The agreement is effective for 5 years and can be extended another 5 years. It was signed by the Cuban foreign minister and Svetozar Duratovic, federal secretary [of information] of Yugoslavia.

### Former Mexican President Echeverria Arrives

*FL2406021288 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jun 88*

[Text] This afternoon former Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez arrived in Havana from Berlin. The distinguished guest was received at Havana's Jose Marti airport by Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of State, and other officials of the Cuban Government.

In remarks to the press, Echeverria Alvarez referred to the recent efforts to avoid a nuclear catastrophe.

[Begin Echeverria recording] The whole world would suffer. In the case of a nuclear war, there would be no conquerors or conquered people. That is way the peace movements throughout the world of different ideological backgrounds have increased their activities. They have followed with much interest the different summits that have been held and they feel that progress should soon be made for an effective and total nuclear disarmament. [end recording]

## Dominican Republic

### Transport Workers Join Economic Policy Protest

*FL2906135188 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] More strikes have hit the Dominican Republic. Thousands of people were forced to walk to work yesterday in Santo Domingo as the transport workers joined the strike in protest of economic policies of President Joaquin Balaguer. The strikers demand a freeze on oil prices and reduced prices on auto parts.

Meanwhile, a high-level delegation from the Dominican Republic has begun gathering information on Jamaica's economic recovery. Dominican representatives are examining Jamaica's recent success in stabilizing its economy in spite of a $4 billion foreign debt.

## Haiti

### Namphy on Coup Reasons, Elections, Army Role

*PM2906113688 Paris LIBERATION in French 27 Jun 88 p 17*

[Interview with President General Henri Namphy by Christian Lionet in Port-au-Prince on 24 June]

[Text] Port-au-Prince—Henri Namphy received me on Friday at Bon Repos, his private residence—a big white house surrounded by extensive walled grounds. At our first meeting last December, the guard was fairly relaxed. This time there was strict surveillance. Around 100 men, drawn from the presidential guard and the Dessalines Battalion, provided the guard. General Namphy was alone in his office, surrounded by shelves of books. He looked rather tired, but was in good shape, smiling, and confident.

Henri Namphy: Good morning. Have you been following events? The Army had to do its duty and exercise power once again. The Army and Gen Namphy are prisoners of power!

LIBERATION: When are you going to escape?

Henri Namphy (laughing): I cannot answer your question.

LIBERATION: What was the reason for this military coup?

Henri Namphy: When I was head of the National Government Council (Footnote 1) (The National Government Council, headed by Henri Namphy, had executive power from 7 February 1986 to 7 February 1988), I made every effort to maintain the Army's unity. If politics interferes with military affairs, the Army is destabilized. That is what happened in the case of Colonel Jean-Claude Paul. President Manigat failed to abide by the Constitution and military regulations by refusing to approve the administrative transfer of Col Paul—a decision made by the commander-in-chief.

We made every effort to avoid a confrontation with the president. We allowed him to implement his policy. But we could not allow him to destabilize the Army. The Paul affair and the decision to retire me were aimed at doing that. We took action to ensure that the Army was not divided, and I think that the coup was the best solution for the Army which emerged from it with a better image and more unity.

LIBERATION: Was the coup not also a political operation? It was widely known in recent weeks that you disagreed with what Leslie Manigat was doing.

Henri Namphy: We repeatedly told the president that it was in the Army's interests for him to complete the 5-year mandate which the Constitution gave him to prevent any need for us to intervene and to enable us to use that time to reorganize the Armed Forces, by educating and equipping them, and so forth.

I have never ventured into the political domain. It was not my domain. However, I was able to observe from outside that President Manigat refused to reach agreement with the established civil service. He immediately tried to impose a different concept of public office. We had to gradually change things; otherwise there would have been deadlock. That is what happened.

That government's decisions were unpopular. However, we defended it and tried to settle things, even when it meant picking up the tab.

Moreover, Mr Manigat, president of Haiti, president of all Haitians, behaved like a party leader. He placed men from his party everywhere. I had nothing against him or

his government, but you can see that people are convinced that he wanted to seize power once and for all. The Duvalier family took time to establish the system of life presidency. He established it immediately. Mr Manigat is very greedy!

LIBERATION: This episode may have improved the Army's image, but Haiti is facing political deadlock. Are you going to call new elections or will you stay in power?

Henri Namphy: I am convinced that the time is not right for elections in Haiti. We must first organize the state and establish the foundations for the democracy which you are all demanding, although you do not know how to prepare for it. We handed power over to an elected government and a civilian government. That did not work. It is not the Armed Forces nor the population who are to blame: The government fell into its own trap. It has now been proved that there cannot be elections or an elected president in present conditions.

LIBERATION: The democratic sector has been speaking a different language since the events. It is talking of "national reconciliation" and of "historic compromise." Are you not willing to collaborate with it?

Henri Namphy: I welcome the fact that divine wisdom has entered the political world! But politics is not the priority, it is not the country's main requirement.

The priority is education, development, and employment. If there is adequate education, you will have a political life.

Look at what happened after 7 February 1986: The politicians returned and believed they could regain power. But they did not campaign among the people. I told the candidates: Campaign! If you are accepted by the population, you will be elected. But you cannot force yourselves on them. Parties of all political persuasions, influenced by foreign models, tried to impose their views on Haiti without knowing anything about it!

LIBERATION: What are you going to do to organize the state and develop and educate the country without help from all sectors?

Henri Namphy: It is true that this is not the Army's vocation. The Army will take part in the process, but we must find Haitians to organize this country. It will be a long task. Everybody must take part. I say to everybody: Help us, but not by pulling in different directions, as political parties tend to do. The "democratic sector" claims to be ready for consultations to resolve all problems. I am dubious about that because I have not forgotten previous statements (Footnote 2) (In summer 1987 most of the parties adopted the watchword "Pull up the cassava" to force the National Government Council to resign). However, we must now talk.

LIBERATION: But will the Armed Forces stay in power for the foreseeable future?

Henri Namphy: Yes. But there are other levels of responsibility aside from government. I am open to absolutely any sincere offer! We need everybody's help to draw up an inventory of the country's needs starting from the grass roots, at the level of rural sections (Footnote 3) (The rural section is the smallest Haitian administrative entity. It is the equivalent of our cantons.). Since independence, it has always been the National Palace which has decided, and we can see the result. Let us try something different. Let us drawn up an inventory which will say these are my needs, these are my resources, this is what is lacking. Can you help me? Thank you. You cannot help me? Thank you all the same. This is not impossible.

LIBERATION: If there is to be a consensus, people must come meet.

Henri Namphy: The opposition has no role to play in this process although it has great difficulty in understanding that.

LIBERATION: It is convinced that it has.

Henri Namphy: You will be surprised by what I am going to tell you: Only the Haitian Army can bring democracy to this country. I state that categorically. The Haitian Army is the only institution which can bring human rights to this country. I am not afraid to say it: Gen Namphy is the champion of human rights in this country because he does not send people out into the streets to be killed. Instead, I protect them. Only the Haitian Army can support development, which is the only way of establishing democracy in Haiti.

### Manigat's Information Minister Released

*PA3006021688 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0121 GMT 30 Jun 88*

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 29 Jun (REUTER)—The Haitian military government has released another two supporters of deposed President Leslie Manigat, relatives of the prisoners said today.

The relatives said former Information Minister Roger Savain and his son Roger Jr were released last night a little while after four other Manigat supporters were released to U.S. and Canadian diplomats. [passage omitted]

Former Minister Savain has dual Haitian and U.S. citizenship. His relatives said he would travel to the United States within the next 48 hours. [passage omitted]

**Newsman on U.S. Envoy Recall, Morales Release**
*PA2906145188 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Report by Guillermo Ochoa]

[Excerpts] The United States has recalled Ambassador Charles Pilliod to Washington for consultations. This is what they say when a government is indignant with another. When a government is extremely irked about something it calls its ambassador back for consultations. The next step is to withdraw the ambassador, but, according to diplomatic jargon, when the ambassador is recalled for consultations it is already a serious matter. [passage omitted]

Here is a report by Vicente Rodriguez:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] The fact that the Mexican Government has released William Morales so he can receive asylum in Cuba has caused indignation, surprise, and anger in the U.S. Government. This is surmised from the official communiques that the State Department and the White House released yesterday and the day before yesterday and Ambassador Pilliod's urgent trip to Washington for consultations.

According to the United States, Mexico should not have released Morales because, according to them, Morales is a terrorist who has been sentenced to almost 100 years in jail for his participation in several terrorist and criminal acts in U.S. territory. However, the Mexican Government does not regard Morales as a terrorist but as a victim of political persecution because he has admitted that he belongs to organizations that seek Puerto Rico's independence. The controversy lies in the different characterizations of the individual. The extradition agreement between the two nations includes criminals and terrorists, but not political prisoners. [passage omitted]

In 1983, Morales—who is now 37 and has no hands because he lost them when a bomb exploded in 1978—was arrested in Puebla after allegedly participating in a shootout in which a Mexican policeman died. Since then, and until 2 weeks ago, Morales was in the custody of the Government Secretariat as a political prisoner. He was sentenced to 8 years, of which he served 5.

According to Mexican Government sources, Morales was freed according to Mexican laws and traveled to Cuba, where it has unofficially been reported that he received political asylum. [passage omitted]. [end recording]

Incredible. William Morales, conceived of as a fighter for Puerto Rico's independence! One should ask Puerto Ricans if they want to become independent from the United States or not, after they voted in a plebiscite to became a U.S. state. Besides, Morales carried bombs, so much so that one went off and blew up his hands and a policeman died in Mexico in a clash with him. He can hardly be regarded as a victim of political persecution.

Our government usually handles foreign relations very skillfully. However, frankly, frankly, [repeats himself] it is hard to look favorably on Morales' release. Of course, he served a sentence and was released. But he was then allowed to travel to Cuba instead of granting the request from the United States, where Morales had to pay for several crimes. Morales, a persecuted man, or freedom fighter? [passage omitted]

## El Salvador

### Blandon Says Coup Statements 'Misinterpreted'

*PA2906192388 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara on interview with General Adolfo O. Blandon, chairman of the Army Joint Chiefs of Staff, by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Today General Adolfo O. Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that his statements about a coup d'etat were misinterpreted, because the high military command is analyzing a coup as merely a possibility. According to the military leader, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] would benefit the least from a coup d'etat. This morning Gen Blandon said that ARENA members are the ones who would least benefit from a coup d'etat, adding that his recent statements on this could have been misunderstood.

[Begin recording] [Blandon] I have not seen the published version [of my comments] because I was out of the country when this report was made and did not get a chance to properly clarify things. What I regret is that I have noticed that a political institution [ARENA] has been very much harmed; I agree with them on this. Today I saw a report on Channel 12 with Dr [Jose Antonio] Rodriguez Porth saying that this political institution is the one that would benefit the least from a coup d'etat, and I completely agree. This political institution has the majority of votes in the country and would be hurt the most by a coup d'etat.

As members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, we are obligated to analyze the possibilities that could affect our day to day lives. I did not accuse anyone of preparing a coup d'etat, because I do not have proof that anyone or any institution in particular is preparing a coup d'etat.

[Reporter] Will there be any important changes in the High Command?

[Blandon] This is normal. When people within the Armed Forces have served their time and are ready for retirement, then changes are in order. You will hear about this in a few days. I believe there will be changes by the end of this month at the High Command, commander, and other levels; this is routine.

[Reporter] Will there be a new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

[Blandon] You will learn this in a few days. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Honduras

### Azcona on Shultz Visit, Corruption, Tax Reform

*PA2906142788 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0520 GMT 28 Jun 88*

[Report by Allan Rolland on interview with Honduran President Jose Azcona; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Honduran National Party leader Rafael Leonardo Callejas said in Choluteca that Liberal governments are responsible for the fact that there are more than 120 missing people in the country. Callejas also criticized Liberal administrations for the country's current economic situation. President Azcona Hoyo reacted to the arguments presented by the presidential hopeful:

[Azcona] "What is the objective of a political party? The main objective of a political party is to reach the presidency. Mr Callejas wants to get there. Thus, he is going to say that and much more against Liberal governments representing the Liberal Party. Therefore, this should be expected, and it is normal to a certain extent. Nevertheless, I believe he is absolutely wrong. We think Liberal governments are in particular the ones that have done something for the country."

Regarding missing people and the issue of corruption, Azcona also made harsh criticisms:

[Azcona] "I would like him [Callejas] to mention specific cases of corruption. As for the other issues, we all know that people began to disappear in 1981, before I became president. These are very difficult cases to handle in any country in the world. However, here in Honduras we all know each other, and people know from whom they can expect better results: whether from the Liberals or from the Nationalists. President Azcona [as heard], however, does not want to give any more explanations or make further comments on this.

[Rollard] "Mr President, how is the lobbying with other Central American presidents proceeding with regard to the election of the new BCIE [Central American Bank of Economic Integration] president?

[Azcona] "I discussed this issue with Presidents Cerezo and Duarte, who said they would give me a response on this. Thus far, there has been no positive reply. Nevertheless, I will continue working on this, because I believe it is advantageous for Honduras to (?lobby) for the BCIE presidency.

[Rollard] "Who is the official candidate?

[Azcona] "No. [as heard] The most feasible thing to do would be to reelect Dante Gabriel Ramirez, and that is what we suggested. We thought that things would be easier if a Honduran continued as president of the BCIE."

President Azcona confirmed the meeting this week with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and he mentioned possible topics for discussion.

[Azcona] "Well, I think the main issues will be Central America and the reconciliation that should take place in Nicaragua.

[Rollard] "Mr President, when will the Congress be informed about the executive branch's proposal on tax reforms?

[Azcona] "Well, possibly either today or tomorrow we will send the proposal to Congress. We should not forget that the deadline for submitting (?exemptions) ends on 30 June. Congress will have to decide prior to 30 June whether it will extend the exemptions or not.

[Rollard] "Mr President, are you no longer getting support for this plan?

[Azcona] "No, it is not just a plan. [Words indistinct] I would like to take this opportunity to refute, for example, what was stated in the headlines I saw a few days ago. Specifically, LA TRIBUNA reported that I had said that I was planning mass dismissals. On the contrary, I said that no president, not one of those candidates who are now saying that they would reduce the government's labor force would be able to remove people from government posts, because this is a very well-organized country. Therefore, organized groups will not allow mass dismissals. On the contrary, I said that I will not dismiss large numbers of workers. [passage indistinct]

"The truth is that the plan to restructure taxes has not been viewed accurately. I want to say that the proposed restructuring is not aimed at collecting more taxes. We are proposing a necessary restructuring that should be in accordance with the new tariffs, the new monetary policies. This would not represent even 10 million lempiras for the rest of this year.

"That amount of money would not resolve our problems, because it is absurd to think [words indistinct], and I believe that LA TRIBUNA's article did not have good intentions.

[Rolland] "Has the labor sector questioned the initiative?

[Azcona] "As I said before, there is a lot of misinformation circulating about the measures. I do not think that any worker or any person will oppose, for example, taxation on imported luxury items, mostly because those taxes have been established through Decree No 59. If we abolish Decree No 59 and fail to impose taxes on luxury items, then we would have to decree other taxes. For example, Decree No 59 establishes a 20-percent tax on coal; however, if we implement changes, then the 20-percent tax would be abolished. Consequently, taxes on imported luxury items would be reduced, and that would be impossible. We have to reorganize everything to avoid increasing taxes on essential items; but we have to restructure—not increase—taxes on luxury items.

[Rolland] "Referring to changes in taxes, what has been the nature of your contacts with Congress members?

[Azcona] "We have talked with some of them, but information has been mishandled from the beginning. [Words indistinct] the people by issuing those statements—which are not true—to gain their support. The truth is that we must implement some changes, and we cannot eliminate taxes on luxury items. Similarly, certain imported luxury items can be replaced perfectly well with Honduran products, such as coal, batteries, and many other things. We can produce those things here and the people [words indistinct]. Furthermore, those are minor issues and do not represent a large source of state revenue."

## On Region, U.S. Ties

*PM2906095388 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 20 Jun 88 p 10*

[By Eusebio Val: "Azcona: 'Honduras Is Not a U.S. Aircraft Carrier'"]

[Text] Tegucigalpa—"It is absolutely untrue that Honduras is a U.S. aircraft carrier. In Honduras there are no U.S. military bases such as there are in the European countries," LA VANGUARDIA was told by Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo, in whose opinion the accusations of total subordination to Washington which his government frequently receives "are just the outcome of some complex which exists in certain countries."

The Honduran president asserted that "as soon as anybody maintains a friendly relationship with the United States, there is immediately a reaction against that country. A country which is a friend of the United States is a U.S. puppet." Then he stressed that the U.S. military presence in Honduran territory is confined to the occasional arrival of National Guard units of various states "to build roads," or the holding of joint military maneuvers.

With respect to the Palmerola base—deemed vital for logistical support for the Nicaraguan contras—Azcona maintained that "it is a wholly Honduran base with a Honduran commander."

"Sometimes," the president continued, "U.S. military personnel come here; they have a specific area reserved for them where they pitch their tents and set up their field hospitals; that is all."

The Honduran head of state has repeatedly and insistently denied that his country's territory is being used by the anti-Sandinist rebels to attack the regular Army of the neighboring Republic of Nicaragua. "Just now," Azcona stated, "there are several thousand Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries on our territory, but they entered after the end of the provisional cease-fire because there was no way of delivering humanitarian aid to them there."

The Honduran president expressed his disillusionment at the lack of full observance by Nicaragua of the pledges made in Esquipulas II, especially with respect to the general amnesty. "What must be done," Azcona flatly asserted, "is to force the Sandinist government of Nicaragua to observe Esquipulas II and the January 1988 Costa Rica declaration."

In the Honduran president's opinion, the democratization of Nicaragua is essential for the pacification of the area. "Our greatest desire," he specifically stated, "is for there to be peace in Nicaragua. We gain nothing from war. Honduras is not at war with Nicaragua; nor do we ever intend to be so. We have clearly laid down our stance: We are not going to attack or lend our territory for any power whatever to attack them. But we fervently desire an understanding among the Nicaraguans and believe that the only way is through an internal democratization in Nicaragua."

A day before the conversation with LA VANGUARDIA in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran president received in his office a delegation of senior officials sent by the White House and headed by Max Kampelman, roving ambassador for disarmament affairs. The contras' future was broached at the meeting. In fact the U.S. delegation's presence caused the last-minute postponement of Azcona's scheduled meeting with the Central American vice presidents in order to discuss aspects concerning the coming setting up of the Central American parliament.

In the Honduran president's opinion, exaggerated opinions are being expressed about his country's military dependence on its powerful neighbor to the north since "the military aid which Honduras receives from the United States bears no comparison with the aid which Nicaragua obtains from the Soviet Union. It certainly makes us concerned about our security, and this forces us to spend resources which we should perhaps earmark for other activities, especially in the social field."

With respect to the possibility that the Sandinist troops may again launch a major offensive against the rebels and decide to cross the Honduran border, Azcona warned that "we will on no account allow our territory to be violated on the pretext of pursuing contras or any other excuse." Asked about the Honduran stance with respect to the possibility that an agreement between the two sides fighting in Nicaragua may finally not be reached, the president said that "our stance would be one of being alert, because when there is not peace in a neighboring country, you always experience unpleasant repercussions. If the reconciliation for which we yearn does not come about, there will certainly be greater repression by the Sandinist government, and this will create more refugees and more unrest among the population, and we are going to continue to suffer the consequences of this situation."

Jose Azcona Hoyo complained bitterly about the the "unfair attacks" which Honduras receives from the international community. "In Honduras we have no political prisoners," the president stressed, "and we have no refugees in any country in the world...; there are just some people learning to be guerrillas in Cuba and Nicaragua. There is complete press freedom here. I can assure you that there is more press freedom than in any European country."

Honduras, with 5 million inhabitants and where poverty is more visible than in other countries in the region from the moment you leave the aircraft, scarcely suffers from the problem of armed insurrection. Several guerrilla groups, including the Lorenzo Zelaya group and the Chinchoneros, reached their maximum level of activity in 1982 but are now virtually broken up.

Azcona does not believe in another revolution in Central America. "President Ortega," he stated, "told me that they had become convinced that there are no longer conditions for another revolution in Central America, because neither Arias, nor Duarte, nor Cerezo, nor Azcona is a Somoza or a Batista. So it is not easy to approach certain groups and incite them to act against the government, as happened in Nicaragua."

Before ending the interview—after which Azcona left quickly in order to watch a European Championship soccer match on television—the Honduran president denied that his country's Army makes decisions over the heads of the civilian government: "The truth is that right now the Honduran Armed Forces are composed of real professionals who repeatedly show their respect for the Constitution and the civil power. I have enjoyed the Armed Forces' complete respect and support."

## Nicaragua

### Vice President on New Economic Measures

*PA3006004088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Jun 88*

["Excerpt" of speech by Vice President Sergio Ramirez at a Teachers Day celebration at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua on 29 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] We never even suspected that the right—in cahoots with imperialism—would use a situation such as this for its own gain. This is a special situation involving an aware people. The people are aware. They have had complete schooling in politics here in Nicaragua during this decade. There are, obviously, varying degrees of awareness, but we cannot be too wrong when we say that this political awareness is our best shield, especially in difficult times such as these, when we have to confront and overcome so many problems. When this war of aggression started in April 1982, we had already begun

some very ambitious economic and social transformations. The revolution had either already consolidated or was beginning to carry out the most progressive education, health, and welfare programs. [passage omitted]

The accomplishments of the revolution are in danger of accelerated deterioration unless we can curb inflation. As long as we control the growth of inflation, we will be able to provide adequate salaries and adjust prices to conform to the economic and market realities. We will also be able to continue financing the costs of education, health, and social welfare.

The worst and most dangerous delusion would be to think that to issue, manufacture, or print bills to finance salary increases would resolve the problem. Such a measure would, on the contrary, irreversibly worsen the situation. This is why we are stressing that an understanding of the situation is necessary in order to manage the country's economic responsibly.

Salary adjustments—we are not considering freezing salaries—will have to be made as inflation eases. The new economic measures will have to be reviewed on a monthly basis, just as a seriously ill patient is cared for in an intensive care unit on an hourly basis to determine the right type of treatment to administer—assuming he is being given this special care because his condition is constantly improving. [sentence as heard]

We have to encourage the rank and file to support any measure that will exclude the manufacture of currency or the printing of bills. We must confront tension and difficulties with creative initiatives originating from the rank and file. In this regard, it is essential for us to reactivate the participation of groups concerned with education—parent teacher associations, productive work centers, cooperatives, state production units, municipalities, etc.—to search for answers to the most urgent problems facing teachers. Transportation is one of the most critical at this time. This will give the revolutionary government the opportunity to work for better economic conditions for the workers.

## On Contra Talks, Shultz Tour

*AU2906132588 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 28 Jun 88 p 4*

[Report on interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by BERLINER ZEITUNG reporter Maritta Tkalec—date and place not given]

[Text] During the past few days, news of renewed armed attacks by the contras has again surfaced in Nicaragua. At the same time, negotiations between the contras and the Sandinist people's power on a final cease-fire have entered a difficult stage. BERLINER ZEITUNG talked with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez about the current situation.

BZ: What chances do you see for the peace process in Nicaragua, bearing in mind the obstacles and problems that have occurred over the past few weeks?

Sergio Ramirez: This depends largely on the chances that the United States gives to peace in Nicaragua. The instigators of the repeated obstructions that have occurred in the Central American peace process are to be found in the conservative circles of the Reagan administration. The signing of the Sapoa treaty [as published] came as a surprise to the U.S. Administration. The Reagan administration was so surprised that it was only after the signing that it started to undermine the agreement. The deadlock in the talks with contra leaders during the last round in Managua was to be solely attributed to its boycott policy.

But the following must also be borne in mind: When we signed the Sapoa agreement, the contras were apparently in a phase of disintegration, both politically and militarily. The treaty was signed when the U.S. policy of support for the contras had basically failed. Last week President Ortega again took the initiative and suggested another meeting with the leaders of the counterrevolution in order to overcome the stagnation.

Bermudez Has the Power of Weapons [subhead]

BZ: How great is the influence of that part of the contras that is most closely linked with Washington within the counterrevolutionary organization?

Sergio Ramirez: The remainder of Somoza's National Guard, which today is represented by Colonel Bermudez, has the power of weapons and enjoys the support of the CIA, Deputy [as published] U.S. Secretary of State Abrams, and other officials in the U.S. Administration. The conclusion of the Sapoa agreement was neither welcomed by Colonel Bermudez nor by Elliott Abrams. Presently, Bermudez has enough strength to obstruct the process.

However, we are still far from giving up negotiations, the aim of which is to achieve a final cease-fire, as agreed in Sapoa. During the talks in Managua we started to negotiate this issue and reached agreement on 20 of the 32 points in the Nicaraguan proposal.

The United States and the contras, however, want to declare null and void everything that has been achieved so far and start from the very beginning. Their demands to eliminate the two observers to the negotiations, Cardinal Obando y Bravo and Baena Soares, secretary general of the OAS, and to replace them by Costa Rican President Arias is part of their obstructionism. But why should they want to eliminate Cardinal Obando, who was originally named as an observer by the contras, if not for the simple reason that they want to obstruct the negotiations? Obando and Soares, however, are not only witnesses to the talks. They also have an important function in controlling the observance of the treaties. Talks must continue in Managua with the same observers.

It must also be pointed out that during our talks with the counterrevolution the division of power was never a point of discussion, nor a fundamental change in the political goals of the revolution. To achieve this, so far the contras have neither the political nor the military means, and this will continue to be the case in the future. If we agree to negotiations, it is in order to offer the contra leadership a peaceful participation in the country's political life within the framework of the Constitution of Nicaragua and the conditions that have been created by the revolution. Our revolution does not forbid its opponents—even if they have taken up arms—to return to the country and to participate in political life.

BZ: Secretary of State George Shultz intends to conduct talks at the end of June in all Central American states that have signed the Esquipulas peace plan—with the exception of Nicaragua. What do you think about these activities?

Sergio Ramirez: It is a fact that the diplomatic initiatives launched by the United States that concern Central America and exclude Nicaragua are highly questionable. What does Mr Shultz want to do in Central America if he does not talk with us? His intention can only be to play off the other Central American states against us.

I do not think that during the remaining few months of office the Reagan administration will be in a position to newly outline its policy toward Nicaragua, even if the situation requires it. Washington's approach is characterized by vacillation and contradictions, and one must not forget that Reagan's policy has always been based on weapons, on military threats, and on the support for the war of the contras. Congress has approved this policy for a long time. But this belongs to the past, and Washington will find it difficult to stick to this policy. And another factor must be taken into account: In the same way as Reagan's policy toward Nicaragua has caused a loss of prestige for his administration, a change in approach has also taken place in other Central European [as published] countries that have traditionally supported Washington's policy.

United States Insists on Old Regional Policy [subhead]

BZ: How do you assess the opportunities which detente in the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union holds for the settlement of regional conflicts?

Sergio Ramirez: The success of the communications between the Soviet Union and the United States must necessarily create room for negotiations and the settlement of other conflicts. However, in spite of the negotiations conducted between the United States and the Soviet Union on strategic issues and nuclear disarmament, the United States continues to stick to its old policy when it comes to regional conflicts. The United States acts as if it had the right to determine the regions in the world where regional conflicts must be settled in accordance with U.S. interests. And while an agreement was negotiated and signed with the Soviet Union on the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles, the United States stubbornly refused to allow small countries such as Nicaragua to proceed on their own national path. This is why we think that a dialogue on strategic issues must necessarily open the door to further understanding so that countries like Nicaragua can also freely choose their own future.

Dialogue With Washington Demanded for a Long Time [subhead]

BZ: In his election campaign, Michael Dukakis presented his outline for a new policy toward Central America. What would the Nicaraguan Government think of a Democratic president in the White House?

Sergio Ramirez: In my opinion, what Dukakis says is correct. He says that the policy of the Reagan administration was illegal and immoral because it violated international law and even U.S. laws. It was aimed at toppling a legitimate government in Central America.

Starting from this position, I believe it possible that an administration led by Dukakis would pursue a policy characterized by mutual respect. I think then it would be possible to enter into a direct dialogue with the United States. This is what we have long demanded.

BZ: Over the past few weeks the Nicaraguan Government has carried out a number of economic measures. What goals are being pursued in this respect?

Sergio Ramirez: Due to the enormous strain caused by the war, Nicaragua's economic situation has become more and more complicated. For nearly a decade the country has spent enormous material and financial resources on a war that surpasses the country's strength. And this year this has become more apparent than ever before in the country's economic structure. We were forced to spend large sums in order to guarantee the defense of the country, amounting to about half the budget. This is reflected by a high rate of inflation. We are making great efforts to curb it. The country has lost more than $4 billion through the war and has had to mobilize an enormous number of people for the front lines. We have problems concerning the supply of the most important goods to the population. Therefore, all the measures we have adopted are aimed at halting economic destruction. We are searching for ways to come to terms with the abnormal situation. The measures are primarily directed toward curbing inflation. However, the true problems can only be resolved if peace is restored and the country can direct its efforts toward reconstruction. As long as there is war, the economic situation will continue to be difficult.

## Panama

### TANA Trial Against President Reagan Begins

#### Cuban Arrives

*FL2806181688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jun 88*

[Interview with Dr Melba Hernandez, president of the Cuba chapter of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America (TANA), by correspondent Nelson Notario Castro at the Omar Torrijos Airport in Panama City on 27 June—recorded]

[Notario Castro] What message against the U.S. Administration does Cuba bring to this trial?

[Hernandez] What message does the Cuba chapter of TANA bring? We have come from a meeting with the Presidency with much confidence and faith in the work we will do here when we meet tomorrow and the next 3 days to condemn Reagan in the trial the Panamanians have organized.

We know the condemnation will be eloquent and that the voices of Latin America, of our America, will once again unite to tell Reagan: That's enough!

#### TANA President Comments

*FL2906033988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Statement by Guillermo Torrielo, president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of our America and former foreign minister of Guatemala, in Panama on 27 June—recorded]

[Text] I think we have come [to Panama] with three fundamental objectives. The first one is that we, all of the (?Presidency), which is composed of Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad-Tobago, Cuba, and me, representing revolutionary Guatemala, have come to express our deep solidarity with this heroic people which is currently suffering one of the most wicked aggressions of imperialism.

The second objective, particularly because of that aggression, is to hold a trial. This will be the second one against the Republican administration that Ronald Reagan represents, who in November 1983 we condemned here in Panama as an international delinquent. However, because he is an international recidivist delinquent and terrorist, we are holding this second trial.

And the other objective, which is an act of revolutionary justice, is to give, post mortem, Division General Omar Torrijos our medal of freedom fighters and heroes of America. This medal will be given directly to the Defense Forces who have taken the banner and will receive (?it) from the hands of General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

#### Reagan Subpoenaed

*PA2906134388 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Jun 88 p 3*

[Text] Yesterday the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America (TANA) heard charges brought against U.S. President Ronald Reagan and gave him 24 hours to appear before the tribunal or to select his own defense attorney. President Reagan is being sued for "crimes against the people and Government of Panama."

Lawyer Jose Juan Ceballos presented the charges yesterday at 1030, and the TANA secretary general announced that the documents presented were in order and in accordance with TANA requirements.

Yesterday TANA President Guillermo Toriello, a Guatemalan citizen, announced that the accused, currently living in Washington, would be subpoenaed and given 24 hours to respond.

Likewise, TANA advised the U.S. Embassy in Panama that President Reagan was being subpoenaed and that he must appear before the tribunal on Thursday at the Atlapa Convention Center. Should President Reagan fail to comply, the tribunal will appoint an attorney for him.

Toriello said the United States is trying to turn the Latin American countries into colonies and into its own backyard. He added that Reagan's policy is supported by the U.S. Congress and the Senate [as published]. Panama is accusing President Reagan of violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties and "economically, militarily, and legally" damaging the country.

Likewise, the charges add that the United States wants Panama to agree to negotiate new canal treaties that will allow the United States to keep its military presence in the country after the year 2000.

Ceballos said Panama's refusal to agree with the United States has led to "an undeclared war" on Panama. Ceballos added that the United States has used psychological, economic, diplomatic, and military pressure, as well as disinformation, to inflict an estimated $5 billion in economic damage on the country.

## Argentina

### Army Officers Serve Sentences, Return to Duty

*PY2906170488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1410 GMT 6 Jun 88*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jun (NA)—A Defense Ministry source has reported that the Permanent War Council for Army Chiefs and Officers has punished those officers of the 35th Mechanized Infantry Regiment of Rospentek, Cruz Province, who were involved in the January uprising with sentences ranging from 30 to 90 days.

The source says the council regarded the event as "an act of indiscipline" and that the indicted officers, who have already served their sentences, have returned to their respective duties.

The nine indicted officers had refused to go to Buenos Aires to join the troops in charge of repressing the January uprising.

### Military Chiefs of Staff Receive Promotions

*PY2906131988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0002 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Jun (TELAM)—During a ceremony at the White Hall of Government House, President Raul Alfonsin pinned ensignia on the newly promoted Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Dante Caridi; of the Navy, Admiral Ramon Arosa; and of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Ernesto Crespo.

The ceremony, which took place at 1830, was attended by Vice President Victor Martinez, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Education and Justice Minister Jorge Sabato, Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, and Public Health and Social Action Minister Ricardo Barrios Arrechea.

Joint Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Teodoro Waldner, Apostolic Nuncio Ubaldo Calabressi, Supreme Court of Justice President Jose Severo Caballero, Defense Secretary Juan Gauna, UCEDE [Centrist Democratic Union] Deputy Maria Julia Alsogaray, and other military and police chiefs also attended the ceremony.

A period of almost 6 years in which the highest military rank had not been awarded to an Army officer ended with this ceremony, in which the chiefs of staffs of the Armed Forces were awarded their ensignia of promotion. [passage omitted]

### Arms Company Sells Vehicles to Ecuador

*PY2906200588 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Jun 88 p 9*

[By JES]

[Excerpt] TAMSE [Tank Factory] president Colonel Ruben Jose Lorenzo recently returned from Ecuador where he signed a contract selling 54 TAM medium Argentine tanks, 18 VCTP armoured personnel carriers, two VCPC armoured command posts and two VCRT tank recoveries and repair parts, the company told the Herald yesterday. [passage omitted]

## Bolivia

### COB Calls Stoppage To Protest Tunari Deaths

*PY2906133188 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] The COB has decreed days of national mourning on 30 June and 1 July. All activities will be suspended on those days. The objective of the measure is to show disapproval of the incidents in Villa Tunari, where seven people died and several were wounded. We have the remarks by COB leader (Oscar Iturri).

[Begin (Iturri) recording] The COB has officially decreed a 48-hour stoppage. It will be staged on Thursday and Friday, beginning at 0000 on Thursday and lasting until 0000 on Saturday. The purpose of the 48 hours of stoppage and mourning is to condemn the events in Cochabamba and the repression by government agencies. [end recording]

(Iturri) said that the instructions for the stoppage will be issued on Wednesday and that emergency services will operate during the stoppage.

### Marches Staged To Protest

*PY2906133488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] Marches were staged in La Paz and Cochabamba during the first phase of the demonstrations sponsored by the COB. COB leader (Oscar Iturri) stated that a demonstration staged in front of Government House in La Paz was successful because, he said, there was a large number of workers present. (Iturri) said that the march was held to condemn the Villa Tunari incidents and the presence of DEA agents in Bolivia. He concluded by saying that the demonstrations will continue according to the previously [words indistinct].

### Chamber Rejects Opposition Statement on Tunari

*PY2906130388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Excerpt] The opposition blocs in Congress last night issued a statement on the Villa Tunari incidents. The document, which was not approved by the Chamber of Deputies,

emphasizes concern regarding the tragic results of the (?government struggle) against drug trafficking in Chapare, where coca growers were injured and killed, adding that those who are responsible for this scourge act with impunity throughout Bolivia. [passage omitted]

### Meeting of National Coca Growers Ends

*PY2906142288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] Leaders of the Special Federation of Cochabamba Tropical Peasant Workers have issued a communique reporting that the national meeting of growers of coca leaves ended at 2100 last night and that the following decisions were made:

To follow the accords signed with the government.

To issue a resolution asking that the DEA be removed from Bolivia.

To condemn all involvement with drug trafficking.

To observe the 48-hour strike decreed by the COB.

## Brazil

### Sarney Vetoes Two Provisons of Election Bill

*PY3006011888 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] According to the Presidential Public Relations Office, President Sarney today vetoed a provision of the municipal election bill which would have established a run-off election on 15 November.

The president also vetoed provisions establishing the supervision of the electoral process by the balloting office and the 15-day deadline to contest the results. The president prefers the current 3-day deadline.

### Assembly Grants Amnesty to Small Businessmen

*PY3006013188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A short time ago, the Constituent Assembly approved an amendment containing a generous benefit for small businessmen: the total pardon of the adjustment made for inflation on debts incurred from 28 February 1986 to 28 February 1987.

The amendment also benefits very small-, small-, and medium-size farmers who resorted to the rural credit system for loans between 28 February 1986 and 31 December 1987.

The principal of the debt must be paid within 90 days of the promulgation of the Constitution. The amnesty does not apply if the loan was used for purposes different than those contracted. The amendment benefits those who cannot pay; however, the creditor bank must confirm the creditor's incapacity to pay.

The amendment was approved by 286 votes to 173, with 22 abstentions. It does not compensate those who have already paid their debt. [passage omitted]

### Army Minister on Trade Relations With PRC

*PY3006024988 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jun 88 p 6*

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves stated that Brazil will probably develop good trade relations with the PRC in the war materiel sector, especially concerning missiles, artillery, and explosives. Asked whether ideological barriers between the two countries have ended, the minister stated: "More on their side than ours. Since they are open to the whole world, they are also open to us."

Although he did not reveal further details on the negotiations, Gen Pires made it clear that they will be carried out through reciprocal imports and through resales to third parties. Before signing any contract, the Army will send a delegation of technicians to the PRC. According to the Army minister, the United States is still Brazil's traditional partner in weapons trade relations. "France has won an international call for bids, and thus trade with France has increased for some time," he added, referring to the contract for the purchase of helicopters by the Brazilian Army.

### Minister on Satellite PRC To Build for Country

*PY2906153288 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] In Beijing on 4 July, President Jose Sarney will sign a scientific agreement with the PRC to build two satellites.

PRC Aeronautics and Astronautics Vice Minister Sun Jiadong ratified the agreement during a meeting with Science and Technology Minister Luiz Henrique da Silveira.

[Reporter Carlos Alberto] Minister Da Silveira will now explain the importance of this satellite for Brazil.

[Begin Da Silveira recording] This will be an operational satellite that will supply images of every point in Brazil. This is essential because we have modern agricultural methods. The satellite is intended to predict meteorological phenomena; to help us understand the repercussions of attacks on our ecology and environment; to improve our environmental controls; and to teach us more about the behavior of our climate, our rivers, our tides, and so forth. This satellite will be like very sensitive eyes and ears, watching what happens in our territory. [end recording]

[Alberto] The technical aspects of the project have been worked out in detail already. The funds are guaranteed. The first satellite will be launched in 1992 from the PRC. The investment totals $150 million, with Brazil covering $45 million. [end relay]

**Solution to Argentine Trade Deficit Sought**
*PY2906221188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1851 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Jun (TELAM-ANSA)—Today Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman Rui Nogueira said in Brasilia that the Brazilian Government is concerned with the Argentine deficit in its trade balance with Brazil.

He said this in response to statements attributed to Carlos Bruno, Argentine Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic affairs, published yesterday in a Brazilian daily. Bruno allegedly said that integration between the two countries was specifically designed to avoid using dollars in their trade. However, when the trade imbalance is too large, the barter system provided for in the integration agreement is no longer effective.

According to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman, the Brazilian Government is already adopting the importation of 5,000 items from the list of the most favored agreement [acuerdo de alcance parcial], negotiated within the framework of the ALADI.

Nogueira said that in the second half of July, the Brazilian Government will send to Buenos Aires a high-level mission headed by Ambassador Sebastiao de Rego Barros, Brazilian Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic affairs. This mission will try to find a solution to the Argentine deficit, which amounts to $400 million, which includes 1987's negative balance and that of the first 4 months of 1988.

**Nicaragua's Ortega Seeking New Line of Credit**
*PY3006025388 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jun 88 p 6*

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sent a personal envoy to the Planalto Palace to present a lengthy letter to President Jose Sarney, in which he requests the opening of a line of credit to finance projects in the transport sector. Ortega also thanked the Brazilian Government for rescheduling the payment of a $200-million debt contracted immediately after the establishment of the Sandinist government. The envoy, Herty Lewites, received words of understanding but no promises regarding the new loan.

**Paraguayan Opposition Leader Begins Visit**
*PY3006020288 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jun 88 p A-8*

[By Bob Fernandes]

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Domingo Laino, 52, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA)—the most significant opposition force to the government of Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner—was scheduled to meet here last night with Brazilian military officers. Laino was planning to tell the Brazilian officers that "Brazil has the largest military mission" in Paraguay. He was not going to convey to them, however, his opinion about the Brazilian democratic transition, "which is being implemented at a snail's pace."

Laino, who believes Paraguay is undergoing a "pretransition" stage, came to Brazil to meet with federal government officials, political leaders, and with members of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference. He also gave a lecture at the University of Brasilia. He said the Paraguayan opposition expects the Paraguayan transition to have its own characteristics, although it might be similar to that of Uruguay. [passage omitted]

Laino said: "The church, through its leadership, has performed an opposition role for the past 2 years. The church hesitated earlier between supporting or opposing the isolation of Stroessner's regime. [quotation mark as published] He said: "Japan has just lent $480 million to Paraguay, and Brazil has the largest foreign military mission in Paraguay, thus exerting great influence in military schools and organizations, in addition to having many officers in the country."

Laino believes that "dictator Stroessner will not be able to elevate the candidate he is grooming to succeed him: His son Gustavo," a lieutenant colonel and pilot.

According to Laino, the Paraguayan opposition has received signs of a cooling of relations between Stroessner and the U.S. Government. He said: "The U.S. State Department, through its specialists on Latin American affairs, has made remarks in favor of democratization in Paraguay, and it is no longer giving any economic or military support to Paraguay."

**Lebanese Traffickers' Properties Confiscated**
*PY3006000888 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] Today the Mato Grosso do Sul State Federal Court confiscated all properties belonging to the Lebanese nationals (Dami Mouda Chamou), 37, and his brother, (Jose Mouda Chamou), who are both businessmen of Campo Grande.

The police arrested the two Lebanese nationals together with a few other people and 70 kg of cocaine last week. They are all members of the so-called Lebanese cocaine connection.

The confiscation of approximately 50 real estate properties, including apartments, land lots, residences, shops, rural estates, and different vehicles, was ordered by Judge Luis C. de Bastos of the Federal Justice First Criminal Court, who is in charge of the investigation into the drug ring.

## Colombia

### Justice Minister Proposes Anti-Drug Agency

*PA2906230688 Bogota Inravision Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Report by Alvaro Ayala on interview with Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra by unidentified reporters—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra said that he has recommended to President Barco that a Colombian drug enforcement agency be created to fight drug trafficking. He added that the decision regarding this recommendation would be left to President Barco.

[Begin recording] [Low] I believe this is the type of recommendation [a Colombian justice minister] should make upon leaving this position rather than right after coming on board.

[Reporter] What is the status of the investigations on the various massacres that have occurred in this country?

[Low] The judges have made their rulings and have issued some arrest warrants; however, I do not want to provide any further information at this time for fear of interfering with the investigations. [end recording]

Once the justice minister hands over the post to Dr Guillermo Plaza, he will travel to Buenos Aires where he will assume a position with the OAS.

### ELN Kidnaps Italian Oil Executive for Ransom

*PA2806211788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jun 88*

[Excerpt] This morning Italian oil executive Jacomo Gambinu was kidnapped in the town of Sabana de Torres, 3 hours from Bucaramanga, by the so-called Army of National Liberation [ELN], which is demanding $2 million in ransom. [passage omitted]

### Briefs

#### Drug Planes Forced Down

After an intense chase between Barranquilla and Monteria, Colombian Air Force planes machinegunned two Aerocommander planes owned by gangs of narcotics traffickers operating on the Atlantic coast and forced them to land. The Defense Ministry reported that the Air Force planes detected the illegal flight of the two planes as they took off from a clandestine airstrip in Guacimal. [Summary] [*PA2906193088 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Jun 88*]

## Ecuador

### Abdala Bucaram Leaves Country for Miami

*PA2906233788 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Excerpt] Sources close to the Bucaram Ortiz family have told Ecuador Radio that Abdala Bucaram left Ecuador for Miami yesterday. This report was confirmed by Bucaram's wife. She said Bucaram had left the country, but she did not reveal his whereabouts. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### New Air Force Commander Vucetich Sworn In

*PY2906144388 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] General German Vucetich Zeballos has been sworn in as Air Force chief commander in a ceremony at the Plaza de Armas of Las Palmas Air Base. The ceremony was presided over by Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez Albujar, who asked members of the Air Force to obey and respect their new commander.

Gen Vucetich Zeballos replaced General Pablo Varela Novela, who retired. After the commander's banner was raised, a squadron of Macchi aircraft flew over the air base as a greeting to the new Peruvian Air Force commander.

Gen Vucetich read a message in which he invoked the spirit of Air Force martyr Jose Quinonez. He promised to run the institution with due regard for the country's Constitution and legal order.

### Alleged Terrorists Rob 3 Banks; 2 Guards Hurt

*PY2906033588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 28 Jun 88*

[Text] Lima, 28 Jun (EFE)—The police have reported that two Civil Guards were seriously injured by alleged terrorists who this morning robbed three banks in Lima and ran away with 50,000 [currency not specified]. One of the alleged terrorists carried a baby in her arms.

The thieves, four men and a woman carrying a baby, managed to escape in a car after the robberies.

They first robbed a Banco de Credito branch located on the central highway out of Lima where they shot the two Civil Guards who attempted to stop them.

Afterward, the alleged terrorists robbed a Banco Popular branch in Miraflores District after overpowering the private bank guards.

Finally, they assaulted another Banco de Credito branch in San Miguel district and stole five revolvers from policemen there.

## Suriname

### Results of First Round of Talks 'Positive'

*PA2906224888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] The Surinamese Government representatives who held talks with Ronnie Brunswijk's armed group will submit their report to President Shankar, it was reported in Paramaribo.

The first round of talks between a Suriname delegation and former soldier Ronnie Brunswijk, mediated by Paramaribo Bishop Aloisius Zichem, ended last night in French Guiana.

The authorities of the French overseas territory called for the dialogue between the sides to the Surinamese conflict, although they warned in a communique that the French role was only to provide a site for a conciliatory meeting. The media, however, have repeatedly said French Guiana has served as a Brunswijk rearguard base and as a supply point for military aid to the rebels from the Surinamese community in the Netherlands.

The report said the delegation heads will meet again with Bishop Zichem. The Surinamese Foreign Ministry director and Brunswijk himself acknowledged last night that the results of the 2 days of talks were positive.

The text of the two agreements signed covering conditions for an eventual cease-fire will be published shortly, it was reported. A suspension of hostilities is expected after Brunswijk's return to his general headquarters on an island on the Moroni River, which separates Suriname and French Guiana.

Another element in the conflict is the Surinamese Army under the command of Desi Bouterse, who has expressed disagreement with the negotiations.

### Protocol Signed

*FL2906181788 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] The first round of the peace negotiations between the delegations from the Government of Suriname and from the Brunswijk gang ended yesterday in Saint-Jean, French Guiana, with the signing of a protocol. So far, nothing has been said about the contents of the protocol. On his arrival in Paramaribo, Roman Catholic Bishop Zichem said that both parties shared the view that a cease-fire is necessary. The church representative said further that the negotiations took place in a friendly atmosphere and the second round of talks will be held in the near future. The government delegation at the talks was expected to inform President Shankar about the talks last night.

### Renewed Fighting Reported; 2 Rebels Wounded

*FL2906123288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] In Suriname, there are reports of renewed fighting in the eastern (?Patamacca) District. Two guerrillas were wounded in the offensive mounted by the Army.

As far as the peace talks go, mediator Bishop Aloisius Zichem said some progress was made on the first day, Monday, after a difficult start. He did not elaborate.

### Soldiers, Rebels Killed

*PA2906195888 Paris AFP in Spanish 1913 GMT 29 Jun 88*

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 29 Jun (AFP)—Today at least three soldiers and three guerrillas died in heavy clashes in eastern Suriname. The clashes have taken place only 1 day after the government and rebel leader Ronny Brunswijk signed a cease-fire agreement. The announcement of the clashes, according to the state news agency SNA, was made here by Army Commander Badreissein Sital.

According to the Army commander, several soldiers were attacked by guerrilla units while they were heading for Patamacca, 110 km east of the capital, to get water.

Another three soldiers were wounded in the [words indistinct] neighboring Guyana [words indistinct].